棺姫のチャイカ
(ひつぎ)
III
榊一郎
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ファンタジア文庫

Hitsugi no Chaika - Volume 03

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Prologue

From the sky fell truly deafening.

Ruthless … did not give a single chance to sound.

Of course, the battlefield noise felt like home. There was no shortage not only in cries and abuse, but also in the deadly scheme that began with the singing of the blades and ends with a bang. In the ears of an experienced warrior all harmoniously blended into a symphony of war and even lent forces in battle.

– … ?!

But … some sounds were afraid even to old soldiers.

Although they were on the battlefield, the sound did not have anything to do with the battle.

It was the sound of destruction, sound, destroying the enemy with the help of power and superiority.

Can not be called “battle” is simply the destruction of the enemy, which does not give him a chance to respond with anger, grief, fear or hatred. People who have died from the fact that they were in a landslide or flooding, not waiting for the glory. They were killed like cattle, without giving any chance for retribution.

– .. ..!

Sound, distributed over the head magician named Simon Scania meant just that.

He was in a dark gorge.

It is literally surrounded by mountains, shrouded in the darkness of night.

Both sides rocky land on which almost no grass grew, and which is almost running animals, the wind swept rare … usually after sunset

this place is filled with silence.

– … !!!

Overhead, there were some black spots, as if someone had holed the sky. They were like a solar eclipse, enveloped in a flickering flame … and grew up in his eyes, continuously emitting deadly rumbling roar.

Each of them was death … or rather, having a crushing strength "Stryker".

Large-scale spell Exterminating type of localized battles – "Hard Rain."

Despite the pretentious name, in fact, the main threat to this spell was banal "collapse." Not in the fire and even lightning. Just falling shells.

Any thing flies from the top down. It knows even a child.

But even such an obvious phenomenon … may lead to this cataclysm, if you add to it a sufficient distance, weight and quantity. Even a pebble dropped from a suitable height, can accelerate to what would become a formidable weapon, not inferior to the boom. … And if the objects are so large that they can not raise alone, and many, like raindrops, then the power will be so great that you can easily understand how to use them to ruthlessly destroy a whole town or village.

Yes. Initially … the spell was intended to assault enemy bases.

– ..

At its core, "Hard Rain" was an army spell that requires lengthy preparation.

Moreover, the impact of fire are required at least 10 mages and high Gundo and sources of magical energy.

Pre spell it required that in the sky over the target sprayed created through the magic of "matter" (it can be either run in the sky with

the help of magic, or sprayed with who is still above the balloon), and only when it is sufficiently fit to proceed to the main stage spells.

High above the clouds created by magic “nucleus”, which started to rotate at high speed, and tightening environmental spressovyvaya their “mother.” They grew sharply in the millions, no, billions, and sometimes trillions of times heavier.

Similarly, in the sky formed a pair of raindrops.

That’s just the spell gave rise to far from harmless drops.

Huge “Stryker”, took to the air pressure form raindrops, red-hot, and fell to the ground in an incredible amount with a force like a sledgehammer blow.

A very simple phenomenon.

But therefore it is impossible to do anything.

You can try to stop the spell, but the magic is made high in the heavens, and what’s more, when the enemy sees the first “Stryker”, all the magical procedures have time to finish. Therefore, this magic is impossible to prevent.

There remained only one thing … to defend themselves with the help of an equally large-scale protective spells.

Against the rain from heavy, solid, and also hot “strikers” could not help neither swords nor spears, whatever may have been the masters of those who used them. They would either crushed with a weapon, or easily to the shock wave.

– … ?! …!

Even the magician householder is not omnipotent.

Against “Hard Rain”, against an organized group of magicians, powerful and high-performance fuel Gundo, focuses only one person is useless. Erected hastily barrier would be crushed along with its creator.

Yes. Nothing to do.

It was believed that as soon as you get in range of such a large-scale Exterminating spell, you could only die.That is why even the veterans, hearing the roar of a “Hard Rain”, despair and powerless froze on the spot.

But…

– A-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah !!! – Roared magician named Simon Scania.

… He could not give up.

No. He did not want to die.

He was still so much to be done.

He wanted to do so much more.

But the main thing … was waiting for him at home favorite.

“Do you think … Am I going to die here ?!”

Simon raised his right Gundo, curbed by the fear of tangled thoughts and began to spell:

– Vale … Then … Elm … Nai Nai … ..!

If he had a chance to survive, it is in the same wing of large-scale “Hard Rain.”

In the end, “launch” any magic relies on the decision of one person only. Although complex spells and require the efforts of several magicians, only one of them controls its direction and makes the final decisions.You can draw an analogy with a large ship that is running a lot of people, but only the captain makes the final decision about where it will float.

AND…

– Eu … Vaorun Alti … … … Malteo Rule … Alf Lai … ..!

… That is why the power of large-scale spell has been uneven.

One person could not see anything and could not distribute the power of the spell so that the damage is divided equally over the region. So if Simon defended himself from the strongest available to him as the magical shields, then he, though one would have appeared a chance to survive.

– Appear …

Let … and one.

– “Hard shell” !!!

Simon was able to activate the spell.

Once formed magical writings around Gundo immediately appeared translucent spherical barrier blue.

“Hard shell” was the most powerful protective spell that only knew Simon. The scope was small and limited movement magician, but no offensive magic point scale could not break through this barrier. And even in the case of large-scale magic if to avoid a direct hit, he had a chance …

– … Tx! – Simon pressed himself to the staff.

Although in most cases required to activate the spell will of the magician, it was only a “detonator” … and support spells and control of it exercised Gundo. Simon could only rely on luck.

So far, the “hard shell” to protect him.

From bumps on its surface ran deformation waves, and pinch the barrier itself, but the spell still continues to hold.

– … !!!

– … ?!

He saw beside him his comrades.

Even through the translucent shield he saw about what was happening outside.

It seems that his fellow detachment something screaming. But the roar of falling “Hard Rain” drowned out their voices. Because of the waves, ran through the barrier surface, he could not even make out the movements of their lips.

– ..

One of them pulled a hand to Simon, as if begging to save him.

During a short break between two consecutive waves Simon miraculously managed to see the movement of his lips.

“Simon. Scania “.

And the next time …

– !!!

“Stryker” was exactly as his friend, and he was gone.

Huge drop-shaped body is going into the ground with such speed that it was neither crushed meat, no spilling of blood.

There was only a severed hand, flown through the air.

It hit the surface created by Simon “hard shell” and slid along it to the ground, leaving bloody fingerprints.

– … !!!

– … !!!

Shouted something and the other comrades.

But their words never heard before hearing Simon.

But he knew what they were talking about. Or “save us”, as the previous one. Or … something like “traitor”.

– Fx …

Magic Simon could only protect him for one.

And even with that, his chances of survival were slim. And despite the fact that the range of the spell has been pressed down as much as possible in favor of the greatest possible strength. Perhaps if he briefly interrupted “hard shell”, and then apply it again, slightly increasing the scope, would be able to grab one or two friends … but too high a risk that then die and Simon, and friend. And in general, what he was able to successfully apply these conditions “hard shell” itself is almost a miracle.

He had only to throw them.

To at least a little to improve their chances of survival, he must watch as his comrades die.

– … I could not do otherwise – quietly handed Simon.

It is to no one spoke. Most likely, and friends have not heard his voice just as he did not hear them.Therefore, these words he probably said to himself.

– I could not have otherwise. He could not otherwise. Could not otherwise. I could not otherwise!

If he could, he would have saved them all.

On the battlefield, he is extremely weak in close combat magician, survived only because the melee instead engaged master of this case – swordsmen and knights. It is fully recognized. He knew that his friends were not just saved his life.

But … but that’s why he could not cancel after this “hard shell”, is not it?

This would mean that Simon probably would have died along with his companions.

The death of the company was not entirely meaningless.

If he had a chance to survive, is not it better than nothing? One survivor better complete extermination. With this would agree

each.

He could not do otherwise. That's why he could not do otherwise.

– Ooh, ah …

Who had taken refuge in the "hard shell" Simon put his head, closed his eyes and covered his ears.

Falling from the sky deadly sledgehammer. Dying comrades.

He could not bear what is happening around him.

He did everything he could. only pray that he survived he could do.

No…

– …

one more thing he had to do.

He had to kill the traitor.

As already mentioned, "Hard Rain" was used to attack the enemy base. Because the magic required lengthy preparation, you can not just apply it. And as for using it is necessary to spray the "matter", it did not yield any sudden changes at the last minute.

This means their opponent almost never used small maneuvering platoons, like Simon's squad.

But they were able to so accurately podgadat time and place of the attack?

Coincidence? It's impossible.

They would not just prepare for the attack on the station, where there was not a single building.

So … their enemy knew exactly what Simon squad will take on this gorge on this very day, this very hour.Simon was sabotage detachment, is engaged imperceptible movements and ambushes. His movements known only to the people directly associated with

it.

The enemy was a man who generously shared information with them … a traitor.

Officer? Brother-soldier, who was not given to take part in operations due to injuries? Someone's friend, lover or relative? In any case, someone has decided to sell squad Simon enemy and put them at a disadvantage.

– Do not forgive … Never forgive ..!

Kill the traitor.

Make him suffer for all those comrades that have died, and died at this very moment, and then kill.

Simon shrank into a ball inside the barrier, like a baby, and swore:

– I will surely kill him ..!

He threw his friends and only defended themselves without looking at how they are silently screaming with rage.

Simon decided to live only for the sake of hatred for the traitor.

Chapter 1

Perhaps such a picture even in Hell could not be found.

Around not grow a single blade of grass. On the ground lay only rocks and sand, but, despite the sharp elevation changes after each turned out that this relief lasted continue without any changes. Everywhere rising white haze cover half of the landscape, and the air was thick smell that followed the vision began to fail, and the sense of smell.

The colors were dull and almost not changed.

We can say, with a normal life here nothing is tied.

Moreover, this is the place, though, and “empty”, different from the cold and lifeless wasteland … the smell and the heat served as a warning to anyone who dared to come here. This land has been poisoned.

And yet … in the heart …

– Eh …

Toru ACURE relaxed.

He rested. He had no idea that his body may be so obmyaknut.

Such chances were given to him rarely.

Thor was young. His appearance drew the title of “young men” … even though someone could call him “boy.”His black eyes and hair can not be called remarkable, facial features a bit more attractive than most, but no more. It is unlikely that his beauty turned out to write a ballad … The only real feature of it was printed on the face of universal gravity, rather characteristic for the old than for the young.

Growing up is not determined by a person living for years, and

lived experience.

That is why poor people look older than their years. Since the Torah has grown in an environment quite different from the “normal” according to the society, and looked older than his real age.

– Bliss …

Thor leaned against the rock and looked up at the sky.

He trained when standing. He trained when sitting. He trained even during sleep.

Such was his life, as he grew up to the age of reason. You could even say that he trained 24 hours a day, without realizing it himself. Every movement of hands, every move, every breath and exhale. Regardless, his muscles moving consciously or unconsciously, any action imprinted in the subconscious as a workout.

Pisces swim naturally. Birds naturally fly.

So here.

Because of this he was able to restore the form, despite the very long period of idleness.

But … as retribution for their unconscious training, and now he had deliberately ordered the body to “rest.”He had only to forget about your body, and it has started to train endlessly accumulating fatigue.

It could even lead to the fact that fatigue would have reached a level where he could and did faint.

He had heard that the true experts and masters of their craft were able to give half of his body to rest, continuing to temper the other half of what was called “rest during training” … but in the 20 years the Torah was still a novice, incapable of such a thing.

And that’s why …

– Eh … – he sighed a long, plunging into hot water up to their shoulders.

He felt gradually melted away “fatigue”, accumulated in the muscles and blood vessels, and the tension remaining in the nerves. With his eyes closed and he did could imagine how his body heat spreads easily, and as the blood flows inside.

He was in the hot spring water.

Here, the white haze hung so close that virtually closed the review, and the landscape was only a few rocks.They were all black chunks of solidified magma, once stranded on the side of the mountain during the eruption of the volcano.

This characteristic haze and odor resistant creating underground water and heated by sulfur.

Initially, on the ground there was nothing around the Torah, but a bunch of stones, but as close to a river, he decided to try to dig at random and stumbled upon a hot spring. Fortunately, the water proved the most suitable temperature for it to relax.

– I think … I have five years not so … – whispered the Torah, looking at the sky, hidden white haze.

The fact that near the village ACURE in which he lived, too, was like a place with hot springs. There they are in their time and relax after all kinds of training.

But after the destruction of the village ACURE hot springs they stopped to visit … Why, because they do not have enough to eat, they had no time even for a bath, so often they bathed in rivers and ponds.

It is because the Torah thoroughly enjoyed the first visit to a hot spring for 5 years.

– Um …

Of course, the Torah into the water naked.

However, this does not mean that he was defenseless. His body could at any time to come back from holiday in the state of full combat readiness.

– …

Thor squinted and held out his hand.

To dig the key is not filled up, they strengthened it by several large stones, laid out around the spring. In the largest of these stones Torah folded his things.

He walked groping them and quickly found what he was looking.

Throwing Knife.

Usually it was used for, in fact, throwing, but he had a handle that allowed them to fight and how an ordinary knife. Of course, he was far more brittle and rough, compared to any conventional blade, but in an emergency they can be, and repulse the attack, and try to attack the enemy. His favorite stilettos Torah near the water did not leave. They were equipped with sophisticated mechanisms, which could deteriorate from high humidity.

– Akari? .. – He whispered softly, tearing back the stone, turned around and peered into the white mist. – No, it does not seem …

At some point, he felt close to someone's presence.

Half-sister Torah, Akari, at this very moment is to handle the collected sulfur.

She is versed in the pharmaceutical industry, or rather, in the preparation of mixtures with a mortar and pestle, and sulfur could make the gunpowder, poison and even smelling salts. And for them the Torah with such mixtures are very valuable. Their disadvantage is always painfully felt, and the stock has never pulled a pocket.

And that means …

– Is that you, Seagull?

And then, as if he had just been waiting for this, and, white steam slightly parted, revealing the figure of a girl.

Her body was tiny.

She gave the impression of a gentle creature that could crumble in strong arms. Her arms and legs looked thin, and in general in the muscles, it was uneventful. Not that she seemed exhausted, but the bulge on his chest looked so modest that left the impression has not yet had time to form. Perhaps excite her body would start only after several years.

The corners of her eyes were sharp, giving the cat's eye view, but they did not seem strict … causing, rather, the association with a charming kitten.

Her features resembled its impeccable work of art, to which nothing can be added, and from which nothing can be taken away, so as not to upset the balance. Moreover, it is difficult to imagine that this person may change with age. At this very moment it reached a peak of adorable that it might seem as if she was born with that same person and will always be such a girl.

Long silver hair and amethyst eyes only strengthened this impression. Usually, she wore a black-and-white clothes, like a mourning dress, but now her figure concealed nothing, and the dazzling image of infinitely innocent naked virgins reflected in the eyes of the Torah.

Chaika Trabant.

Most often it is, the Torah employer seemed that way. Speaking more precisely, the saboteur Torah considered her his mistress. However, not only was the gull under him, but did not have many important knowledge, which is why their relationship shifted from the category of "mistress-servant" in a rather confusing category.

– So … – Tohru began, and then suddenly moved to cry – what you doing ?!

No matter how close their relations were not, they are not exactly

of the type in which you can, without warning, to appear on each other's eyes in the nude.

Torah Scroll down sharply on the ground, turning his back to the approaching girl.

The underwear Torah it has already seen (because it is in this respect quite indifferent) … but in a completely nude yet.

– Thor …

He heard a splash of hot water.

Seagull entered into the same water in which it was located.

Well-developed sense of the Torah played with a cruel joke. He felt fine, she approaches him … and stopped very close. They were so close we could touch each other's hands. Turn around it – and he had nowhere to look away.

– What are you thinking ?!

– …What? – She asked in surprise.

Her voice did not feel a drop of obscenity – she said the word, like a child who had just learned it.

– Well, you know … – the Torah did not know what else to say.

Seagull was a princess of the north, the Empire Gas.

We of the royal family and nobility only a system of values different from the usual. The powers that be constantly feared attack murderers and always kept near a guard – and in the bathroom, and a walk … and even during the retreat with a spouse or lover. Thor had heard that sometimes the role of hired bodyguards and commandos.

It is unlikely that a person would be embarrassed to undress in front of his dog.

It is possible that not only the gull from the outset not had for the

Torah no romantic feelings, but do not even feel shame in front of him.

“But even so, I somehow can not stare at you!”

Since the Torah is still a young man, then, in spite of all its principles, the body could not help to respond to the nakedness of the young girl.

– Thor …

But she did not think any of his agony, or at all mocked them, because after that her fingers touched the back of the Torah.

And what’s more …

– Thor …

He felt her breath on his neck.

Generally, Seagull barely got out before his shoulders … but the water in the Torah on his knees, and head Seagull is even higher. Their relative growth was such that if the Torah turned before his eyes were neck and chest Gulls.

– Thor … – whisper sounded almost close.

And judging by it, Seagull slightly bent.

It was as if she was going to kiss the Torah in the neck …

– … – The Torah is something quietly muttered.

And in the next moment …

Clang.

At that very moment, as the Torah Seagull turned to his throwing knife he made a sharp sound.

Seagulls teeth literally dug into it.

– …

– …

Between them hung an awkward silence.

I do not move the Torah, and did not move Seagull.

Finally, seagull frowned and, without taking arms Torah from his mouth, he said:

– What are you doing?

– It's me you need to ask, – said Thor, drilling Seagull look. – What was it, Frederick?

– Sudden Attack, and what? – Immediately responded Seagull … rather, something that has taken its shape.

Somehow the voice of the creature remained perfectly clear, though his teeth and continued to chew on the blade. Possibly, the mechanism different from the human speech.

– Why do you look like?

– In terms of? I just naked.

– So I ask – why are you naked?

– Because we wash ourselves? You're naked and himself because of this?

In her voice as if through a "what's wrong with you?"

– No, but it is certainly true, but! – Toru cried in despair. – But I'm asking about why you naked attack me while I wash!

– I told you, it's a surprise attack – there is an answer on behalf of Frederick, releasing finally throwing knife Torah, and stepped back a little bit.

Every time it begins to speak, a little, but still very real teeth appeared between the charming lips. Do not substitute uspey Toru the knife, they would have dug deep into his neck.

– I thought you were in the water at least you come unarmed. You do realize that there is no adequate person will not wash with the weapon, the Torah?

– Look who's talking … And anyway, someone who really, and you'd better keep quiet about the "adequacy" !!! – Exclaimed the Torah.

It is hard to think of anything more insulting than to hear the doubt in his own adequacy of this girl.

After all, Frederick did not even people.

It was Dragoon and belonged to Fail. These creatures possessed magic that gave them the ability to change your body freely, for example, to increase its cover and armored skin before the battle. Many knew dragoons only on such fighting form … but he might reduce his body.

For example … become a human girl.

– What a pity … I thought I could tear your throat.

Frederick said the words, it is not straining as if she was not allowed to play some entirely innocent prank.

After a single case of the dragoons began hunting for the Torah.

She did not hide the fact that he was going to kill him. But not because they hated him or acting on someone else's orders, but simply because the more she had nothing to do.

So … despite the fact that it was kind of like the Torah in the unit, it could disappear at any time for an indefinite period and moodiness are not inferior to the cat. Apparently, she was trying to, not as a human being, to simulate the human value system, but moving in the wrong direction … In any case, the Torah was already tired to mess with this girl-Feil.

– Yet, the Torah – Frederick asked, still in the guise of The Seagull.
– When did you realize it?

– … From the very beginning, – he replied. – However, finally I found only at the last moment.

– But I really tried to repeat the face and body of Seagulls.

– … Really, you're very like her.

Even now, as he stood in front of her, it can be easily mistaken for Seagull.

Of course, its appearance is not repeated body Gulls in the most minute detail, but as she approached from the back, in the Torah have not been able to see them. Even her speech was intermittent, and distinct difference in tone between her and this Chaika was not felt.

– Whereas? The aura, or what?

– Ah … – Torah scratched his cheek. – Chest.

– Eh? Chest?

– At Seagulls chest smaller.

– Eh? True? And I thought, well, I remember everything.

– Her clothes packed. If you have seen it only in ordinary clothes, you do not know this.

– Thor?

– What?

– So, you saw naked Seagull? I knew it.

– I've seen her only in his underwear! And that means "just knew" ?!

Although the Torah and understand that to argue with this monster is useless … he could not stop to answer it. It seems to work is that she looked like a man, or rather, like a girl.

– So in fact even Akari said that you are the greatest tyrant in the

whole Ferbiste.

– Enough to take her words seriously!

– I see … – though the Torah and the response was like a cry, he did not cause Frederica almost no reaction.- So, if I just reduced the breast, it would be able to deceive the Torah.

With these words of Frederick put his hands to his chest and several times brought and spread them. Two small, but apparently soft bulge deformed pleasant to the eyes of the Torah …

– Enough already! – He said, again turning back to her.

And here…

– …A?

– A…

He locked eyes with seagulls.

Her violet eyes blinked and continued to look at him.

Momentarily taken aback Torah.

He turned away from Frederica, not to see the body Gulls, but instead it turned out to be right in front of him.The charming facial features and long, but well-kept silver hair could belong only to her. A small chest under the collarbone confirmed that she is the real …

– …

Toru reflexively turned and, of course, again saw Frederick in the form of Seagulls. Not knowing where else to look, he turned his eyes to the sky.

– What is it, the Torah? Blood from the nose go?

– No!

– M ..?

Came back from the Gull dragged along with it the size of a black coffin itself, in spite of the water. It looks like she really could not calm down, if the coffin was not in the line of sight. This is also one of the points where the two differed Gulls.

– Mr Mr Mr … – tried to say something bewildered seagull.

However, would still – she had only met with his own double.

Moreover, its twin was so close to the Torah, as if they were going to at any time to embrace … In general, a fertile ground for misunderstanding.

– No, Seagull, listen … – tried to somehow justify the Torah, but nothing intelligent never occurred.

Seagull in response hesitantly took a step back, then pointed a trembling hand on his head in bewilderment slopes Frederick.

– Chest ?! Increased ?!

– This is exactly the first thing you have to say ?! – Exclaimed almost turned around, but look again to the shy Torah.

“Why so many women around me – it’s not possible … And in general, why they are so careless about this saying? Maybe it’s me that something is not right, I’m just on every detail so worried? Although this is a former princess and feil … I also have to understand that none of them have no adequate conception of shame. “

– Big breasts. Key. Be sure to teach, – said Gull, approaching Frederick.

– You see, it is very easy to arrange with magic.

– Are you too gone mad ?!

dragoons transformation magic acted only on themselves and all that it recognized the parts of their bodies.Moreover, Toru heard of seagulls that this magic is the unique ability of dragoons, and people could not use it.

– Is your magic not only applies to people who have signed a

contract with you, Frederick?

She could enter into a kind of “temporary contracts” by the bite, which allowed her to heal the wounds of others … but for this transformation, which has been concerned about security, “temporary contracts” were not good.

– Contract!

– Good. Then let’s change hands.

– Why are you talking about it with such ease, if you just want to change the food ?!

For the conclusion of the contract of the rider on the need to share with the dragoons Feil hand, foot, or the appropriate amount of flesh.

– I’m kidding, kidding, – said Frederick. – Apparently, the Torah, you are one of those who does not understand jokes.

– … Is this your jokes too weird !!! – He said in response to the Torah, which has wanted to cry from what is happening.

***

The long war ended.

Naturally, the 300 years of wartime impact on people’s views.

Entire generations have lived my life in its entirety.

It was a simple and intuitive time.

And, of course … all men are making plans for life, given the ongoing war.

“Saboteurs” – one of those who raised this principle in the absolute.

Master of all trades when it came to battles, ready to take on the work, which disdain classical knights and swordsmen, crawling in the darkness of the people who lived by war and ready to go to any

lengths to achieve their goals … This is what they were. They are not shy or dirty tricks, in which they were accused, nor baseness, for whom they despised. And precisely because they were the people they met in every battle, performing the dark, but a necessary work.

Murder. Incitement. Riots. The raids. And much more.

Saboteurs shone when honest methods could not bring victory in battle.

Naturally, demand creates supply.

At some point, the saboteurs have ceased to appear by themselves and organized themselves in the “village”, where they were trained and then sent on a mission. It was quite obvious the system allows you to “produce” more effective saboteurs.

There was a few schools saboteurs. In response to demand from the rulers brought a lot of fighters who took part in various battles. In the villages, well aware that saboteurs are considered as small coins, and did not oppose this – were frequent cases when natives of the same village met on the battlefield, being hired by the warring parties. But saboteurs treated it with indifference. They were able to do their job, regardless of which side is … and their employers is not too worried.

You could say they have found a balance between supply and demand.

But … a long war ended.

As soon occur world as saboteurs began to be perceived as a “dishonest dogs”, “cowards” and “scum” and to treat them with hatred and contempt. Most likely, a significant role was played by the rulers of countries, fearing sabotage skills, because they were able to organize riots and unrest. And since many states have resorted to their services, it is perfectly aware of the danger they represented.

Whatever it was, with the onset of peace saboteurs were left

without work.

And what's more … dramatically change their minds about their country destroyed almost all the "village".

Many commandos were forced to go on the run.

These include the Torah ACURE.

Although it should be called and have not hatched egg saboteur.

After the war ended before he had time to go on their first assignment.

All the skills he honed in his life for use on the battlefield, were useless.

Today saboteurs likened homeless dogs, who threw home.

Their life was not worth nothing. They were created because they were "necessary" … but now this "need" suddenly disappeared. Moreover, they are now training has become too risky.

Torah … angry.

Why was he born?

What was living all this time?

Everything went wrong … and because the Torah did not even try to work all day doing nothing.

And then he had met a girl named Chaika Trabant.

In the course of a series of events that they have experienced together, Thor learned a few things.

What Seagull picking "the remains" of his father, separated into several parts.

What her father was the emperor of the Empire Gas – a key figure of the war itself.

With the support of the Government there was an organization, seeks to capture the princess Seagull.

What is the status of a legitimate heiress could help her resurrect the Empire Gas and once again bring peace during the war.

And much more…

Torah … saw in this a chance.

The war was his liking. She liked him at times more of the world where there was no place for him. He decided to join the Seagull and risks her life in order to find the use of their skills and stop, finally, to rot.

So the Torah and became a slave Gulls.

But…

– The Torah, the Torah …

He felt like someone lightly tapped on his back.

Gull. He knew it, not even turning around.

– Further. Plan.

– Since I have nothing more to do now, I would like to discuss what we will do next – added Frederick.

Toru corner of his eye noticed that she no longer portrayed Seagull and again took the form of a girl with golden hair and red eyes.

If we compare the charming appearance, then Frederick might compete Seagull … but the feel of them came quite different. Seagull seemed a bit lifeless, a bit like a doll, and Frederick on the contrary – restless, like animal, found himself in the body of the girl, cheerful and playful.

By the way, since Frederick free to change his appearance, she was not the “true image”, but more often it is shown on the eyes detachment of the Torah in this form. Apparently, she did not like

turmoil that she raised, walking around in the form of a dragoon.

– Let's talk how to wash finish, – said Thor, who was sitting with his back to the girls.

He sat in the pit spring and looked out.

Seagull and Frederick also swam in the heart of the hot spring.

Actually, both of them behaved so calmly and do not care what the Torah may have no reason to so assiduously avert their eyes … But he could hardly if at the sight of them, he would really be gone nose blood would somehow explain, so he stubbornly continued to look the other way.

– So, I finish the wash in and out?

– Yes.

– And what about you, Thor? You're not gonna go? So you sit? – Innocently asked him Frederick.

– …

Thor did not answer.

If he could, he would have long since left.

The water in this source was unclear, and he was able to hide from them the lower part of his body with it.

– You … – apparently, Frederick realized silence Torah on their own, as decided to continue the conversation.- Searching for the remains of Emperor Strip, right?

It seems that it is still going to talk about it right here.

Toru felt behind him nodded Seagull.

– The confirmation.

– Why? No, I heard that the remains of the emperor is not bad magic fuel … but there are also other sources?

– … – Seagull was not found with the answer.

“By the way, because we have not told the whole truth about Frederick Seagull?”

Any creature possessing a certain level of intelligence, to accumulate the magical energy in the process of life. It can be used to do magic … But people often used their own energy only as a “fuse”, and as the consumables used the so-called magic fuel.

His role was played by the remains of sentient beings.

It is easiest to work with fossils, namely, with fossils Feil, called dry fuel … but with proper treatment, you can use and not fossilized remains.

The remains of Emperor Gaza, has earned the title of the greatest magician of all time and is rumored to have lived three hundred years, were really superb fuel.

But … on the other hand, they are not essential to name.

You can draw an analogy with the prices … of course, if you want to have something very expensive and still fit on the hand, the largest gem does not replace, but if you just want to “pick up something equivalent”, it can equalize a sufficient amount of gold.

If they just wanted a magic fuel, meaning to gather the remains of Emperor Gaza was no.

– Frederick – Torah said, continues obstinately to sit with his back to the girls. – Let me first ask … What do you think about the emperor Arthur Gaza?

– I mean, “what”?

– Do you agree with the opinion of all those states that consider it the root of all evil?

– Well, as you say … – Frederica’s voice did not seem nervous.

It was as if she responded to a question about his favorite color or

dish.

– I'm just doing target of Dominica. Yes, I took part in the assault on the capital of the Empire Gas, but to be honest, I do not feel on this occasion any sense. In the end, after Dominic went to the castle without me … so I could not see his face.

– Clear …

Tohru sighed briefly.

They could continue to hide from her purpose and the identity of Seagulls. It was difficult to say anything about what he thinks of Frederick. It is easy to imagine that it could suddenly become their enemy. Therefore it is better to share it with only the bare minimum of information …

– I have a daughter … – but thinking ahead Seagull Torah. – Arthur Gas – father.

Chaika admitted around itself.

Tohru sighed again.

She seemed almost afraid of what Frederick feil. Of course, not Frederick hunted her 24 hours a day, as the Torah, and seemingly looked the same age as seagulls. This partly explains the courage Gulls.

– … Eh? – Of course, it is the recognition of a little surprised even Frederick.

– Her real name – Seagull Gas.

It is clear now that a senseless to deny.

Tohru sighed again, then added:

– In fact, the magic power of the remains are not to blame. Seagull just wants a decent burial of his father.

– "Bury" … – Frederick repeated this word in such a bewildered

voice, as if he had heard for the first time. – Ah. Bury. Bury … so? Clear.

By repeating the word several times and digest its meaning, Frederick nodded.

– Exactly. People to this very sensitive about.

– You may think you are something different.

– Eh? Ah … you're talking about Dominic? – Frederica's voice was heard uncertainty.

When Dominic Skoda with which this girl feil contracted died, Frederick wanted so much to fulfill her wish, she started to act out the role of Dominica, took its shape and even caused Tohru squad into battle. From the perspective of the Torah, it was a kind of funeral, organized by Frederica for Dominica, but …

– Um … it's a little different.

– Other? What exactly?

– It was not a funeral – confidently said Frederick. – We're with Dominica were inseparable. Her desire – my desires. So I wanted to perform them, even in this form. That's all.

– So is not this a funeral?

– You the emperor himself ordered to assemble his bones?

– No, us…

Of course, the exact answer to this question is not known and the Torah.

But…

– Between you in fact do not have the "contract" that we had? – Frederick continued. – People lie and betray, and therefore without a contract can never say what they really wish, right?

– It may be so, but …

Indeed, Seagull do not remember the events connected with the death of Empire Gas. For some reason she could not quite remember how it escaped from the Empire … and all the other related events.

So, even if the emperor and ordered her “to collect the remains of” The Seagull … do not remember.

In other words, she did not do it because it is the emperor commanded.

Collect the remains was her own desire.

“Clear. A funeral for Frederica seem a manifestation of complacency. “

Indeed, this view is understandable.

In the end, do not wail the dead.

In fact, about oblivion mourn those who survived. We can say they give a sense of already non-existent person, and mourned for his account.

– Do not tell me that you fought with me just because of this – Frederica’s voice began to sound depressed. – Are you ready to risk your life for this?

– “For this?” Wow you call it – Thor frowned. – Seagull is very important. Another may seem pointless, but …

– No, I’m not talking about that, – said Frederick, coming up to the Torah. – I am of you, Thor.

– About me? – He asked, trying hard not to look at the bare Frederick.

– What is the meaning to you to collect the remains of Emperor Gaza?

– I .. I have no sense.

These were the remains of a stranger to him. That's all.

Be the Torah magician, he would perceive them either as a good source of magical energy, or as the remains of the great magician, but …

– I just want to fulfill the desire of Seagulls.

– Why? – Frederick asked another question.

She did not say so, if sought to corner him.

a sincere curiosity in her voice sounded.

– You with Seagull does not bind "contract", and you would not lose anything if it did not fulfill her wish, right?

Frederick said the contract between the rider and the dragoon.

Formally, Seagull has hired the Torah, but did not bind any documents or evidence that the Torah has to serve it, as opposed to the rider, share authority with his dragoon.

Roughly speaking, their contract was oral.

But…

– However, if you are a couple, I can still understand it.

– Couple?

– If you think its a man who will give birth to your children, I can still understand it.

– Hey, you…

– But it is natural for living beings – retorted Frederic stunned replica Torah. – All they want to live. And pass on their blood. It is so natural that I did … would not be surprised if it really was your motivation. This is the most important of the things that I do not know about you, Thor.

– …

All this time, he lived to be a saboteur.

And as a saboteur, he knew only one way to bind themselves to the outside world – to be born for the sake of battle and die for them also.

But one day the war ended, depriving the entire Torah that he could accumulate.

Everything has become unnecessary. All was useless.

– I … I wanted to fight, – said softly Torah.

– How to Dominica?

– No. I wanted to fight, not because he was looking for death. I wanted to battle through to leave something behind. Especially considering the fact that I was still going to die. On the other life and I did not think. I on the other is simply not told.

– …

– So, when I heard the story Seagulls, I went with it – continued the Torah with a tight smile. – Girl, collecting the remains of Emperor Gaza, considered the main villain of the war. The legitimate heir to the Empire Gas. It may also happen that because of it the world will return in times of war. Then the saboteurs will again be something to do.

– Clearly, – batting scarlet eyes, he squinted at Frederick Torah. – But the Torah, you've said that "my goal – that is very dear to me man achieved his goal."

– So … you still remember – Thor frowned.

Indeed, he said these words when they had dinner in a family house in Dominica.

They caused a wave of confusion on the part of Seagulls and Akari. By the way, yes, even the Torah and I explained to them what is the

meaning invested in the word “my dear man,” Frederick he is not telling.

– Yeah. Well, what does it mean?

– Seagull gave me a chance to start fighting again and find a purpose in life. Before meeting her, I just rot, lost everything. So I owe her.

– Hmm … well, basically all clear to me, but …

– Are you sure? – Thor’s eye looked at Frederick.

Because she was not a man, her understanding and way of thinking is often very different from the human.Always there was a chance that after she would say “I understand”, it turns out that in fact she realized everything is not so.

– But one simple thing still makes me doubt – Frédéric suddenly turned her back to the Torah, looked at the Seagull and asked – Seagull. You … really the daughter of the Emperor Gaza?

– M ?! – Seagull dropped in amazement.

Not only that, she did not expect this question, it is even less doubt expecting to hear in the address of the most important facts. The question sounded almost like “who are you really?”

– What are you talking about? – I asked in surprise Frederick Torah.

If she is not the daughter of Emperor Gaza, then who?

In general, the Torah learned that she was the daughter of Emperor Gaza, not by itself. He said about this are the people that chased her and knew who she really was. They said the Seagull – the daughter of the Emperor of the Damned. That it is so dangerous people that they should arrest her …

If you want to cheat Seagull Torah, then it from the very beginning was to introduce Chaika Gas.

But…

– Look. You do not seem unnatural that Gaza Emperor's daughter did not perish with the rest of the empire, and continued to wander around the world? – Thoughtfully said Frederick.

– You…

As mentioned earlier, Chaika did not remember his country's ruin.

She did not know either how she managed to escape the dying capital … or whether it was in the castle that day. At least, so Chaika explained the Torah.

– Are you saying that the gull lying?

– There is a possibility that she may not be aware of this, right?

– …

Torah is not found the answer.

Suddenly, memory loss Seagulls – not just a coincidence, but an excuse, designed to hide the truth about uncomfortable, interfering whole picture issues .. Suddenly, she convinced herself that to trick a detachment of the Torah, as well as myself?

– Do you in fact there is no evidence that the gull – actually the daughter of Arthur Strip, right?

– …

And the truth, no.

Toru felt confused Gull, who was behind him.

It is unlikely that it is assumed that such a question will pop up right now. Perhaps the assumption Frederica that she is deceiving herself, knocked the ground from under her feet and forced to dive into uncertainty.

– On what basis do you believe Seagull?

– …

Once again, the Torah found the answer at once.

In fact … the Torah never cared whether Seagull actually really Princess Empire Gas.

He felt that the execution of its desires, and the very process of this performance – worthy goals, and helped her why.

That's all.

But…

– Although it may be, it is the ability to turn a blind eye to the lack of clarity of what is happening and make you people – suddenly said Frederick to remarkably joyful smile, looking round zamolkshih Torah and The Seagull and apparently understood something. – Interesting yet you have people thinking.

– … These words have now quite pleased – with displeasure said Toru.

She suddenly pulled out into the world a very delicate question, and then closed it with "an interesting way of thinking" … Of course, the Torah is the completion could not calm down properly, and it is a long sigh.

But he had to do it …

– By the way, brother.

– Ah ?! – Immediately I looked up, he saw a Akari.

– What kind of situation is this?

Akari ACURE.

Beautiful girl with slanting eyes.

Usually, her long black hair was tied in a ponytail, "because they are constantly confused and prevented", but now she loosened them. This makes them even better emphasize its majestic beauty, like a sharp blade grace.

In contrast to the “cute” Gulls that immediately wanted to surround with care and protection, “elegant” Akari was like a wild animal. The muscles of her body was perfectly balanced – all kind of Acar said that she never had to sacrifice strength or speed that she had and that, and another.

Perhaps the wild beast Akari reminded yet another – a true beauty she showed, not standing still, and in the midst of battle, when her body stiffened to the limit.

Akari was diversantkoy and sister Torah.

However, despite similar to the Torah hair color, they are not bound consanguinity.

ACURE village often picked orphans or buys from poor peasant families extra children who are only waiting for death to come. Because people skills directly affect the village of income, these children have gained, like investments.

Because of this, parents, children, brothers and sisters in the village ACURE were often not related by blood.Instead, the family bound is that they all went through the same training in the same village. Given the fact that the village ACURE could send spies to the warring parties, “relatives” could easily be opponents on the battlefield. And in such cases, “family ties” pererubaet without any doubt.

But, going back to what is happening …

– …

Thor stood in the middle of a hot spring.

At this very moment, Akari too was naked, as if to go into the water and join the Chaika and Frederica. At least long hair hid her chest and shoulders. A little help and a towel in her hands.

– I want to know what you did while I was preparing gunpowder, poisons and antidotes for me and you, brother.

Indeed, her hair looked a little dirty. It seems that while the pestle

is soiled gray and other reagents. Naturally, all of them need to wash immediately to avoid damaging the hair, so it is immediately go to the source.

– No … I just … I wash …

– Clear. Clear. Washed, then – Akari nodded. – With two naked girls.

– …

In fact, she was right.

Of course, one of them had a body on which the eye really do not catch hold, and another altogether only portrayed a girl, being actually a beast, but Thor guessed that try to appeal to this sense.

– Akari …

– What's up, brother?

– I did not do anything obscene – the Torah said, looking down at his hands.

Generally, in the days of his childhood Toru do not just have to see Akari bare, and he still did not consider her appearance shameful … But at the same time due to the fact that now beside him were two rather poor on solid terrain girls has all the necessary projections and recesses Akari looked at their background charming.

– Clearly, – said Akari, did not face changing.

Her voice did not sound any doubt, no joy.

Despite his good looks, Akari virtually showed no emotion. If she learned to smile, it would become even more attractive in half … but for some reason on her face reflects nothing. Because of this, even the Torah, who knew her for many years, often could not understand what she was thinking.

– Then why did you drop your eyes?

– Oh, it does not mean anything, I just … Well Arise !!! – Akari suddenly squatted down and tried to look into the eyes of the Torah, causing him to cry out these words in response, and to collect will in a fist, not to look away from the hand. – Whatever it was, nothing obscene I did not do! I do not, and that's it!

– Clear … – continued to sit, Akari let out a long sigh. – I am disappointed.

– And what do you expect ?! – Exclaimed the Torah, in the hearts of hitting the water.

– I believe that my brother is not so stupid and did nothing when before it would be so much naked female body …

– Yes, you think I'm some pervert?

– Perhaps, one sentence can not describe it … – Akari said, for some reason, pursing his lips. – But if you really want to hear it for the night, I have time to talk.

– I do not want!

– How strange, you ask, but do not want to listen to.

With these words, Akari punched his palm, as if suddenly realizing something. Despite the lack of facial expressions, it often make gestures like art, fully revealing her thoughts … but now it is not so important.

– Stop. It's called "teasing". The trick, in which first you annoy controversial speech interlocutor, and then suddenly become helpful and friendly, the location of the winning interlocutor …

– What other trick?

– I am delighted, brother.

– You mean, I use some tricks that are not even taught?

– Thor? Tech?

– Did you stop to interfere with God knows when and drool! – He shouted Seagull behind his back and sighed.

Glancing his eyes …

– How interesting – Frederick appreciated incident, saying those words too cheerful voice.

***

The narrow space, surrounded on three sides by thin like paper walls.

Inside it sat on a small stool Knight Alberic Gillette.

Handsome young blonde with blue eyes.

Cool look and smooth facial features gave the impression of a truly refined. But a person is not limited. And pursed lips, and perfect posture, and in general his whole appearance betrayed the noble young man from a noble family.

Booth, in which he was sitting, was intended for negotiation by magic.

Thin walls around it caught the speaker's voice and caller's voice reproduced. In other words, it was a special magic Gundo for communication.

– With regards to the "hero" of the kingdom Kenigseg …

There are several types of spells, able to organize remote connection.

However, the mobile base Gillette squad car "April", used the simplest of them. All the rest were so complex that their use was required not only special Gundo, but also a magician who specializes in working with such equipment. And in view of the limited space in the car they could not afford either one or the other.

This meant that their spell did not allow any time of the day and

night to establish a connection with someone. They need to call in advance to discuss the time and ritual for its commencement should be done on both sides. Without it, we could not even go on a one-way communication – the entire signal would simply get lost on the way.

For the above reasons, this magic used mainly for communication schedule.

– Apparently, one of the eight was a magician named Simon Scania …

Alberic was in touch with the main man “Agency Kliman” Conrat Steinmetz. In other words, with your boss.

Since the link was only a voice during the call, you can with a clear conscience to back chin in his hand or did say razlegshis on the table, but Alberic was so well-bred young men that sat perfectly straight, as if Konrath was exactly opposite him.

– But it seems that even the kingdom Kenigseg not have precise data about its location.

– How is this possible? – Alberic asked, tilting her head slightly.

His subordinates: Vivi assassin, played the role of a mercenary Deputy Nikolai magician Matheus and “special” operative Leonardo – stood behind Alberic and listened to the conversation. However, clear voice Conrat could hear only Alberic, and the rest had to be content with only snatches of conversation that came before them.

By the way, Alberic was one subordinate – a girl named Zita, is both a magician and magic engineer. She was the only one not behind Alberic, and very close to the other side of the wall – it was she liaised spell and ran it.

– How Kenigseg kingdom can not know about the whereabouts of their “hero”?

The word “heroes” that they mentioned, belonged to a group of 8 people, during the storming of the capital of the Empire Gas in the last days of the war went to the front to finish off the vanguard of

the castle and the emperor Arthur Strip. Immediately after that, they (the secret from the public) shared the remains of Arthur Strip into several pieces and took them with them as “trophies”.

None of the eight names were not disclosed.

Each state had its own concerns about publicity names, and so they do not disclose, for political reasons, but the main people of the country and higher army officers, of course, knew them.

But how can the government do not have an idea of where their “hero”?

– About Scania Simone said that he was either a notorious pessimist, or does misanthrope. Soon he fled after the war, and the state army lost track of him.

– He escaped? So he left the army informally?

– Looks like it. Strictly speaking, he is a deserter.

– …

Alberic frowned.

Let their names kept secret, but the characters really considered heroes. In the army to them were not treated badly – on the contrary, they are waiting for rapid promotion and a solid salary. But then, why he decided to desert and disappear without a trace?

– In general, the detachment of “eight characters”, stormed the castle, saying that among them there were many controversial figures, but …

Since the Gaza Emperor penalty could not fail to lock penetrated several units. The exact number of them had not been announced, but “eight characters” formed one of these units.

Assault squad that faced a unique problem – the murder of the emperor Strip. Naturally, they were all excellent fighters … but many had a difficult character traits.

A sane person would not be recorded in the assault force.

Emperor Empire Gas, Arthur Strip, referred to in different ways.

But how many people without a second thought calls him “a monster”, it pointed to the fact that Arthur Gas possessed such power that there was no creature in the world, able to fight with them as equals. It was believed even if the call to fight Arthur Gaza is tantamount to suicide for a person.

That’s why people who agreed to participate in this madness, or were so abnormal that did not spare his own life, or at least acted in force majeure circumstances, which forced to excel in combat at any cost, even if it is almost guaranteed death.

And it is also one of the reasons why the names of the “heroes” were not disclosed. If it turned out that the long-awaited end to the war put the people who are not burdened by high ideals, it would greatly struck by their reputation.

“But…”

– According to reports, Simon Scania is suspected of murder.

– The murder?

– Of course, I’m not talking about battles. He was suspected of murdering his wife and a friend in the walls of his house. But because the evidence was insufficient, and as Simon Scania extremely talented magician, he managed to avoid the tribunal, return to the front lines … and after half a year to be in the same squad.

– What does all of this mean?..

He that came to the fore as a volunteer in the vanguard, all completely forgotten about the murder?

And after the war has disappeared because of the fear that the investigation into the murder of his wife and a friend will be resumed? Often, criminals could get away with during the war, because very few people like to do their chores, but in peace with

their crimes finally tore the veils.

– Perhaps you can learn all the details, just ask Simon himself. Whatever it was, he went missing shortly after the war … But after a thorough investigation of information surfaced that Simon scans saw in town Rademio.

– Rademio …

Alberic glanced back, and Leonardo, a boy with animal ears, pointed at the folded card in his hands.Fragment, which he showed Alberico, just match the surrounding area highway, which was moving “April”.

– If you hurry, you’ll get 2 days.

– But remember, this information is already 4 years.

– …

Alberic sighed so softly that Konrath this did not noticed.

The information was too old.

– Of course, the chances that Simon Scania is no longer there, very high. But maybe, he left the city some trail that can help you.

– Clear …

Frankly, Alberic did not expect the trip to Rademio much, but because the other any useful information they did not have more options to do. It’s been 2 months since then, they have lost sight of its original purpose – Seagull Gas and her minions – and after so many walks through the cities and villages they began to overcome a sense of futility.

It is hard to imagine that the same Gas Seagull better informed agency Kliman … But if Seagull was still trying to collect the remains, then one day it should come to Rademio to find out about Simon Scania. Alberic squad could use this to adjust the trap.

– But … – suddenly she whispered Alberic, feeling a strong desire to

share their thoughts. – After what we learned about the rider Dominique Skoda few days ago, and what happened with the Count Robert Abarth, I was beginning to disturb … the fate that befalls the "heroes".

– Really … – Konrath said. – Even if many of them are people with a difficult character, it really can not be disturbed.

Count Robert Abarth locked himself in his mansion and all day bezvylazno conducted research in the field of magic equipment, lost all interest in the management of its territory. In fact, he gave up his duties as governor.That is why in his land the rivers flowed refugees and questions of tax collection and law enforcement became more acute.

As for Dominica … Skoda recently revealed that she died a few years ago.

It is difficult to say what she thought when she settled in the center of Feil forests, but it is completely abandoned management of the territory entrusted to it, and eventually died in complete isolation, as for a long time no one knew.

– Among those who know about what happened, there is an already a version of the "curse of the Emperor Gaza."

– "The Curse", you say? – Asked Alberic, feeling light confusion.

Once the words "magic" and "curse" were used interchangeably … but today they mean very different things, and in any country makes a clear distinction between them. The face that appeared thanks to the Empire Gas, which was able to organize and systematize all the magic in the magical result of centuries of research technologies.

Today, the magic was considered as a full-fledged technological system.

The word "curse" is applied to the everyday beliefs … or, simply speaking, superstition.

In terms of magical technology, in the absence of a magician and

Gundo … maintaining any effect within a few months or years, as well as the sudden activation of the effect, “pledged” a long time ago, a technologically feasible and theoretically impossible.

However…

– We are talking about a man who is said that he lived 300 years, worked alone completely impossible spells, and other stories. I understand where these rumors come from. But…

Gas Arthur was a man of many mysteries.

He ruled the empire for more than 200 years old and left behind countless incredible myths. Alberic did not consider all of these myths are true … but he knew that the man who gave rise to many legends, to be truly great. And the fact that after his death he continued to retain significant influence (and it was not a trivial consequences of death), can also be attributed to the “curse.”

– It is possible that … – Alberic head visited a sudden thought. – His remains any way reduce people crazy.

– Now you’re talking about this?

– No … I mean, not a curse, – he said with a tight smile on Alberic amazed Conrat words. – This is the magic of unprecedented fuel cleanliness, possessing unparalleled monetary and historic value. Naturally, under the influence of such a thing some people can lose their sanity.

When in the hands of a man suddenly thing on the order gets more valuable than those which he was accustomed to use it over and over again properly dispose of it, and eventually kills himself. You do not need any supernatural powers. Price received things giddy and makes go the right way … that can also be called a “curse.”

– Clear. This view also has the right to life.

– In any case, it is much more realistic, “curses” and other superstitions – mockingly said Alberic. – Whatever it was, thank you for the information about Simon Scania. Gillette squad will travel to Rademio and start an investigation.

– Good luck. At the 407 th session is declared complete.

After these words, the magical connection was lost.

Barely noticeable bluish glow of magic that shrouded the walls, went out … then Zita immediately began to dismantle the booth and its packaging.

***

The wind slowly blew toward the pair, who drew intricate patterns in the sunset sky.

Toru was lying on the roof of the “Svetlana”, their squad car, and thoughtfully looked at the reddening sky.

He sat in a hot spring so long that now his body to steam just lacked the soft breeze.

By the way, Gull, a small body which dried out before, has already managed to move into the “Svetlana”.Frederick, as usual, somewhere has evaporated, and Akari must have continued to work mortar and pestle inside the machine.

– … “I believe”, you say? – Suddenly I muttered Torah.

At first it was just a nice thing to do.

But if you say about it aloud, he suddenly took on shades of suspicious and false.

Believe – hence, no doubt. A question – means, evaluate options, and to challenge the truth.

And therefore…

“On what basis do you believe Seagull?”

When he heard this question, it could not help noticing that there was no good reason he does not.

Torah virtually nothing is known about tea.

At least he knew the facts described only a small part of who this girl was, and even these facts it is mostly heard from conversations, which is why he could not call them bases. The only thing that somehow justify it – is no contradiction has not yet occurred, and therefore false, these facts are considered, too, there are no arguments.

Hard to believe that the gull could tell a lie Torah.

But it did not give reason to think that "The Seagull no need to lie squad Torah, because it does not help her."

It is possible Seagull still had some benefit, a detachment of the Torah did not notice, and she, in turn, did not realize what deceives them. Since she had lost some of their memories, no one could tell what she was thinking and planning that in a lost fragment.

Thoughts were endless stream.

It is easy to decide what is "believe" and not think about nothing but … "doubt" – a real swamp. One question after another and drags for a deeper and deeper.

– Um …

On the day when the Torah met Chaika, the first time in his life to fight in a deadly battle.

Though all the skills necessary for the battles he had for a long time, but at that time the Torah for the first time felt his breath back and impending death for the first time fought hard. He could not forget the feeling of satisfaction that is felt at the moment.

He thought that because of this will change.

This event gave the Torah a chance to break out of his rotten life. This can not be doubted.

But … if you think about, it does not mean that the Torah should unconditionally believe Seagull.

If he had met Chaika, and anyone else (for example, the same

Akari), he would have felt the same satisfaction. The key was the battle is a life-and-death struggle against feil, and not the fact that his companion was a seagull.

– I…

Perhaps … the Torah belonged to Seagull in a special way for the same reason that the newly hatched chicks attached to the first bird, seen in his life. Just because a seagull was with him when he first went through a real battle.

If so, his senses – a simple misunderstanding.

And besides …

– Akari …

Akari feelings differed from his own.

She went on a journey not for the Gulls, and for the sake of the Torah, who went for the Gulls. She had no reason to treat Seagull in a special way. She just followed her stupid brother, because she was worried about him.

If Thor lost his life due to fraud Gulls, he would have deserved such a fate.

But if you look at what is happening through the eyes of Akari, then it does not there is no reason to bet your life. Of course, strictly speaking, a seagull and it was a customer, too, but Akari, unlike the Torah, tolerably well adapted to life in the new era. Unlike the Torah, she could choose a different path in life, rather than remain diversantkoy, no matter what.

I do not get there so that it makes Akari play along with their extremely illogical actions?

And it cost him to think about it …

– You're such a breathy pronounced my name – suddenly echoed Akari's face suddenly appeared on the Torah. – Do something awakened inside you?

– … Enough so to sneak up to me !!! – She exclaimed Thor, jumping.

Besides the usual clothes to know when sitting on the roof of the "Svetlana" Akari was a white apron. It looks like she took a break from his work to visit the Torah.

– Each time the same thing!

Torah is not the first time amazed at how seamlessly able to approach Akari. Moreover – it seemed as if she is always looking for any opportunity to shock him. Thor himself did not understand that it is so interesting in this finding.

– You so much want me dead of a heart attack?

– Stupidity. Why would I started to think something like that?

Akari picturesque shook her head, trying to show how disappointed.

However, her face, as always, expressed nothing.

– I have long decided that you die during sex – Akari said forcefully, his fists clenched.

– Do not decide for others how they die! – I shouted back the Torah. – And in general … except in such cases, the cause of death – not the same attack?

– Your strong will and insatiable libido and allow us to count on the death from exhaustion.

– Will I have to rely on such a!

"Yes, who is my sister thinks I am?"

Thor let out a long sigh and then sat on the roof across from Akari.

– Hey, Akari …

– What's up, brother?

Thor's voice was so serious that she bowed her head in

bewilderment.

Ask the question, looking into the eyes of his sister, it was not easy, and the Torah once again looked in the sunset sky.

– Why you went with me?

– What are you …? – As always indifferently I asked Akari. – Seagull hired me, is not it?

– No, that's the way it is, but …

– You're very determined that will work for her.

– The fact of the matter is that this is my decision … you do not need to do the same.

– …?

Akari bowed her head even more.

It seemed as if she did not understand the words of the Torah.

– I want to say that you do not need to be attached to me and travel with the Seagull. As Frederick noticed a lot of uncertainties and dangers in this situation.

– Seriously, what are you all? – Asked Akari.

She did not flinch nor face, nor the voice. Not a single emotion. Following this, she continued, as if saying something quite obvious:

– I do not go for tea. I'm coming for you, brother.

– But still…

– And if it is a dangerous road, I from you the more I will not leave.

– Akari …

– I … I can not stand when my brother died is not known where.

She slowly shook her head.

Due to the inability to express emotions even friends Akari often misunderstood her. But, nevertheless, the Torah often stood up for her. Why – he himself could not really explain. Maybe it was just because of the fact that they were brother and sister.

Let them … “family” and created only for reasons of convenience.

– If you die away from me, I … – Akari also looked at the sky – I can not make you a stuffed animal.

– There you go again to the old? – Thor squinted and looked displeased at his half-sister.

At the same time he mentally scolded myself for being involuntarily braced to hear her something genuine.

– Maybe for me it is not visible, but I unforgiving woman.

– First of all, do not talk about themselves. Secondly, so do not talk about people.

– True? – Akari again bowed her head.

And here…

– … !!!

– … ?!

Torah and Akari responded simultaneously.

Torah abruptly grabbed the lying near by stilettos, Akari and squeezed the handle of the hammer hanging behind. they stood in a fighting stance only because it sat on the roof, “Svetlana” and not standing firmly on his feet.

They felt it almost simultaneously.

A moment ago behind them exactly nothing, but now suddenly it appeared. And it’s not something crept up to him as Akari to the Torah. It really came out of nowhere, without any warning.

– Who is there? – Akari asked, turning around and looking behind her.

Torah also turned around and …

– Do you? .. – He drawled, squinting.

There was a thin boy.

Flaxen Hair. Amber eyes. 15 years to look at – the same time, when the body has not yet become “male” and not lose children’s features. At first glance, even the floor is difficult to determine.

Though the young man, and looked truly elegant … something it seemed unnatural, and the Torah does not give peace.

Something was missing. It seemed that he lacked something that is present in every human being. That’s just the Torah could not tell what it was. He was like an elaborate doll, like two drops of water similar to the person, but still something subtly different from him.

– I think your name is … Guy – Thor said, handing Akari signal that she did not make any sudden movements.

When the Torah for the first time met with the unknown boy, he could not resist and tried to attack him. The same could well try to repeat and Akari. With the same result.

– So you remember? I praise, – said the boy … a very unusual voice, his looks inappropriate.

The very phrase sounded a bit pompous, as if he was looking down on them, but the tone was so dry that it was not felt a single emotion. But this is not insensitivity reminded to “keep emotions in themselves” Akari. It was as if he, in principle, devoid of any sense. Unlike Akari, he, on the contrary, tried to gesture and facial expression changed, but it seemed only wagering, which was actually worth the emptiness.

– Brother. Who is it?..

– I already told you. This is the type who told us about the

“Svetlana” and Dominica Skoda.

In a sense, this boy was at times suspicious Gulls.

He did not show the true face, he did not report their goals and do not act alone – he was only shared with a group of Torah information and disappeared. He obviously had some kind of plan, and the Torah detachment performed in it the role of a convenient pawn, but the essence of the plan was slipping away from them.

– Well, then, Ki, or how you got there – Akari said, rising to his feet. – I just want to warn you.

– Okay, I’m listening. About what?

– My brother was not interested in boys.

– What are you talking about?!

Thor recovered after being jumped to his feet, took his hand away from the blade and weighed Akari cuff.

– No, that’s right. Most importantly – from the beginning …

– Are you some kind of nonsense talking about!

– Because of the Gulls and Frederica situation is so heavy, so you better watch out for other people who can awaken in you baser instincts.

– Did you just think about it ?!

– Yes.

– Enough to be proud of! – Exclaimed the Torah and then again looked at Guy.

However, this action was entirely mental, because the Torah eyes all the while staring at him intently. It is not the feeling that he would lose control of the situation, if you look away for a moment.

He did not know I was capable of this boy. I did not know when

and how it can act.

In other words, he acted with the expectation that Guy could kill Toru squad at any time.

– And what do you want? – I asked a question on duty Torah. – You brought us back some information?

– Exactly. I have new information. Location next “hero”, to which you have to go.

– …

What kind of information network worked behind the boy?

Undoubtedly, he did not act alone. He possessed so much information that one person would not be collected for anything. For this boy was a whole organization.

However…

– Simon Scania. It is not known exactly where it is, but the last time he was seen in the town Rademio to which 3 days away by car.

– Rademio …

The name is not prompted to any thoughts.

Apparently, it was an unremarkable town.

– Information about what he saw in this city, for 4 years, and since then, nobody knows anything about Simon scans. But because at the moment this is the last of its proven locations, some trace you can catch.

– …

Toru continued drilling look like a Guy always clear face.

He did not disappoint them with information about Dominica Skoda and “Svetlana”. But the Torah for some reason he could not bring himself to trust this boy. Most likely, because he clearly was not

what he seemed.From it came the distinct feeling that under the guise of free aid was hiding some sort of plan.

– Tell me honestly, you're really well all know, is not it? – Asked the Torah, studying the reaction of the interlocutor.

– What exactly?

– Where are the remains.

– No … I do not know – and threw Ki shrugged. – Anyway, I do not know.

– What?

– Perhaps there are those who know it. But I – just a messenger. With the exception of the trivial little things I do not have the right to make any decisions.

– …

Corner of my eye saw the Torah as streamlined word Ki made Akari frown.

It seems that she believed the boy is very suspicious. Something about it did not give the rest on an emotional level rather than logical. Something was wrong, but words can not express it.

– How unpleasant it may seem, we have to listen to you.

– Clear. And it is good – Guy nodded.

He answered without mockery and sarcasm. In any case, through the "void" that boy do not show through any familiar feelings.

– You are free to get angry, doubt, ridicule, hate, love, laugh and feel sorry. This is exactly what is required of you.

– …

Incomprehensible phrase Guy has caused irritation of the Torah.

– You may doubt my words, but if you choose to believe it, then

you should hurry. It seems that the operational agency group "Kleeman" your pursuers, too, possess this information.

– What?

– It seems that the detachment commander called Alberic Gillette.

– …

In memory of Thor flashed image of a young knight … and elegance of his techniques.

He was heir to a family of soldiers, and was born at the end of a long war. Thor fought with him only once, but managed to fully feel that Alberic far from ordinary men.

Thor did not know whether can win it alone.

And most importantly – it was clearly people in the detachment of the enemy anymore.

– Got it. Uchtu, – said Thor.

Of course, he still kept his eyes on Guy. He tried not to blink so Guy did not leave the field of view, even for a moment.

But still…

– Brother …

Even his voice was heard Akari surprise.

He did not look away for a moment. Most likely, and Akari too.

But, despite this, the figure of Guy disappeared right before their eyes.

No warning, no trace, as if he was not there to begin with. None of the four tracks of the eye it did not see where it went.

– What is the trick?

– I do not know.

At the moment, he was not their enemy.

But if it became them, they had become a serious problem.

Torah hardly breathe while talking, let out a long sigh. Somewhere in the back of his mind he knew that they needed to come up with at least some way to resist Guy.

Chapter 2

Rademio proved mediocre regional capital.

He was like most of the other cities-fortresses built during the war, including Delsorant in which the Torah and Akari lived as refugees. The size of the city is quite consistent with the status of the regional capital. Probably, the only difference from Delsoranta was that it did not live local feudal lord.

Most lords preferred to settle in the largest cities of their land.

Accordingly, if the city manages to be the regional capital in the absence of a feudal lord, and to argue in size to Delsorantom … then this is indicative of a turbulent city prosperity.

Indeed, Rademio seething life.

It seems that the main income of the city received from nearby mines, which produces dry fuel.

Dry fuel rather extracted in the mines of fossils of animals served as an indispensable source of magical energy.

Of course, the war was over, but the magic of the demand is still not exhausted. Moreover – Immediately after the war, all countries immediately began to reduce its forces in order to save, and the remaining without a job magicians began to offer their services to farmers and artisans to make ends meet. As a result, the use of magic came more widespread.

On the streets of the city now and then met magicians, roam with their Gundo.

– “The valley, from which no one returns” ..?

This is the name of Torah heard almost immediately, he found himself in Rademio.

– Yes. I advise you to stay away from her – said, frowning a little, good-natured kind of chubby trader whose squad Torah was purchased food and other supplies.

– …

– …

Thor and The Seagull at each other.

Akari with them, by the way, was not – they scored so much sulfur that it is still sitting in the “Svetlana” and handle it. I must say that in these matters it was very meticulous. When she take up the pestle, and she almost ceased to respond to attempts to talk to her.

Frederick, as always, gone somewhere … and more especially nothing to say. Surely in a few days she was again suddenly to announce next to them. Toru squad already stopped paying attention to it. Probably, there was only the question of whether it is possible to consider its “ally” … but, anyway, it is not such a fragile creature to worry about it after a couple of days of absence.

But back to the topic …

– It is also called “the valley of the fog.”

The seller turned to hanging on the wall of the store map.

She portrayed Rademio and the surrounding area. To the east of the city there was a huge crack, as if someone had wounded the earth giant blade. The scale of the map, clear the size of the city, made it clear that it has a very large canyon.

– It always is often clouded in mist. But lately, he has never lost.

– Never? – Asked frowning Torah.

He was sure that the merchant was joking or at least exaggerating.

– Yes. The last few years, this mist hanging in there every day, – said the seller immediately. – Rumor has it that it is woven of malice of those who died in the valley.

– If you say that because of her “no return”, as I understand it, there are many died?

– Probably … – the seller said not too clearly. – Those who inadvertently wander there, never to return. But no one finds them dead … or rather, those who go in search of disappearing themselves.

– That sounds … very creepy.

So, it is quite a dangerous place.

– Live there any feil? – Toru asked, taking a bag of food.

By the way, the purchase was to carry the Torah. Seagull is paying for them.

– No. I have never heard outside the city were carried out feil. Therefore, no one knows anything.

– Hmm …

If you think about it, Dominic (or rather, Frederick) lived in a family house, located in the forest, which is also said that “no one returns” from it. And it was true, but no one said that the reason for this was settled in it feil.Perhaps they have lived in the valley, killing absolutely everyone who got into their territory.

But…

“But the fog that never dissipated, it is certainly strange.”

Just “fog in the valley” is not surprising.

But it is very strange that he never lost.

Moreover – all right if it was some sort of a local feature, but if it started at some point, it is clearly for some reason.

– When the fog stopped scattered about?

– I’ll tell you. Year three … no, four years ago, I suppose.

– And before that people were returning from the valley?

– Well, yes – the seller said, delving into one of the baskets that stood in the corner of the shop.

Seagull was paying very valuable coins, and he was looking for change.

– Of course, this place has never been a particularly straight-through, but some times down to pick mushrooms and wild vegetables … As I remember, in those days, nothing really happened to them.

4 years ago. Shortly after the war.

– …

Thanking the Seller, the Torah came out of the store.

Next I was with him …

– Thor? – Appealed to him concerned Seagull. – Something. Worry?

– Yes, that I just do not bother.

So many things you need to consider.

Rather, it seemed too frivolous Seagull.

However, we must admit that its carelessness and spontaneity really helped the Torah from the first day of their acquaintance. Their journey was not easy. If still Seagull went with sour 24 hours a day, it would be a gloomy despondency.

– But right now I am most concerned with the endless fog, – continued the Torah.

– “The valley, from which no one returns …”

– Yeah. According to Guy, the last time that the magician, Simon scans seen 4 years ago. It is immediately after the war. But the fog also appeared 4 years ago. Of course, two things can happen, “4

years ago" with a difference of half a year … but, in my opinion, they are all somehow related.

– Consent – Seagull nodded with a serious face. – Simon Scania. Missing. Inside the fog?

– Yes, there is such a likelihood.

Given the fact that this is a place with great pomp called "the valley, from which no one returns," … it is clearly lost not one or two people. Perhaps among them he was lost, and Simon Scania.

They did not know what kind of person was Simon Scania, but if he decided to run together with the remains of Emperor Gaza, now they just might be in the valley.

"Assassin's Emperor" – the same people. If one of them died from the disease or the other could have died because of the accident. We can not ignore the likelihood that Scania Simon died there.

– That's just … – Tohru visited sudden thought. – How strange … that we pass through it again.

– M?

– Understand and Earl Abarth, and Dominic, and this Scania Simon … let no one knows about it, but because they heroes? I thought that, those people will live out his life happily and without worries.

After all, they have experienced a severe war. And certainly we got a huge reward.

It would seem that they could only live in anything without denying yourself …

– Stop. It turns out, is just the opposite? – Suddenly whispered Torah aware. – Perhaps the squad immediately Cursed Emperor … just consisted of people who could not live in peace even with money and fame. Not the character, not the mind.

In times of war Arthur Strip called "strong" and "monster", and when it came to politics, and magic. Since he was almost immortal

and ageless, it was believed that one man beat him not under force.

Call such a monster to fight … and even in the midst of the battle against the imperial guard, broke away from the front as part of a special unit – shaped suicide.

Urgent need to excel, indifference to his own life, an unhealthy love of a desperate situation … in any case, an ordinary person is unlikely to agree to enter in the same squad. Perhaps their names are not disclosed precisely because they were distressed people, and after the war were not the “righteous” way of life, which they were expected to.

– And anyway … why it is not just when it is needed?

He spoke of Frederick.

Of course, she did not go inside the castle, but she could spend sufficient time near Dominica to remember the faces of those who was in the vanguard, as well as their behavior.

– By the way … – continued the Torah on the go. – And what kind of man your father was?

– M? Father?

– And then I had something just stories about him and hear, for which it is more like a monster.

What he lived 300 years (someone and lead up to 1000) that can simultaneously use three Gundo that sword treated better than any knight of any country and was so strong that he could bend at the same time some iron coins only some fingers …

It got to the point that the Torah has already questioned whether such a person could exist really.

– Father … – Seagull looked into the blue sky above his head, as if remembering something for a long time. – Father … a man. Emperor. Mag.

– No, it’s something I do know – the Torah reflex sighed.

– Thor … – Seagull seemed genuinely surprised. – Expert.

– Yes, everybody knows it!

– Name. Arthur Gas.

– And this is also know … Are you kidding me? Tell me something else. What do you know his daughter. The nature, hobbies, habits and so on.

Legends of the emperor Gaza passed around so much that it became to distinguish truth from fiction is almost impossible. As a result, the Emperor had the vague “striking” appearance and a particular image was not available.

– Um … um … uh?

But then Seagull tilted her head and thought for a long time ….

Memories so much that she can not choose where to start? .. No, it does not. On the contrary – it seemed as if she was desperately trying to find anything in the memory.

– Mmm?

– So, wait a minute. We’re talking about your father?

– Father – His Imperial Highness – Chaika said. – Busy. Highly. Met. Rarely … almost there.

– …

The harder the ruler belonged to his duties, the inevitable became busier. In the case of such a huge country like Empire Gas, this is especially true. Even some documents require the approval of the emperor, the day was to build up a lot.

If you think about it, really it is not surprising that it has been issued almost possible to see my daughter.

– Very, very busy – Seagull repeated, emphasizing the word carefully.

Torah … noticed the sadness on her face.

– Memories. Few. Extremely.

– I understand … I'm sorry that I asked about this.

Torah and did not know how to look like his real parents.

Of course, children and lived ACURE saboteurs … but a significant part of the future commandos formed from children overbought in the villages, where they would wait for death, and war orphans.

Thor was one of those orphans.

Throughout his adult life he spent in ACURE. Around him there were many others like it, and foster parents he had, so he is not particularly yearned for his real parents.

But … even he knew that the parents of normal children – the most important people. After all, he was a saboteur, which obliged him to understand other people's feelings with all its consequences.

– OK. Complete – Chaika said, shaking his head.

Her face was not sad.

Toru almost managed to calm down …

"Gull. You … really the daughter of the Emperor Gaza? "

… When suddenly he remembered the words of Frederick.

It would seem, how can you doubt it?

Taking its name daughter of the Emperor of the Damned and collect his remains, in spite of all the danger can be either a complete fool or a real daughter.

But … what if the Seagull really is not a real daughter of Emperor Gaza?

What if in fact Seagull understands the feelings of people, and better yet the Torah simply lead him by the nose? What if she acts

out the role of the Emperor's daughter for some of their goals, which the Torah is not committed?

What if she has no memories of the Emperor Gaza simply because she really never saw it?

Chaika said bad and small, because of what the Torah has to anticipate her thoughts and fill the spaces between the words on their own … but what if this is just a trick that she uses deliberately? What if she just grows it is easy to believe her desire?

"Heck…"

Again, a familiar feeling when one begets another question.

People may judge others only by words and actions.

When Frederick asked him this question a few days ago, the Torah did not hesitate to stand up for gulls, but …

"I…"

The feeling that he felt it was too blurry to call it "wobble".

But, nevertheless, he clearly realized that something trembled inside.

***

The word "magician" is only one, but the types of magicians are actually a lot.

Because the magic of technology – rather extensive and well-developed region, it is not surprising that began to appear magicians specializing on certain things.

For example, Zita of Gillette unit itself was rather weak mage unable to use advanced technology. But at the same time it is perfectly versed in any engineered issues related to magic, to effectively use any Gundo, repair and improve them.

The second magician of this order, Mateus, a full set of skills and

magician model beyond that specialized in communication of magic and mind control.

Combining both of these specializations, it could change the brain of an animal so that it becomes possible to use it as a “servant”. This process required the continuous maintenance of the spell, and he Matheus remained virtually defenseless, but at the same time, it meant that he could translate the information from the eyes and ears of an animal right in his head.

That is why Mateus, a couple with a scout Leonardo, often worked eyes and ears detachment Gillette.

– …

Matheus for quite a long time sitting with eyes closed in “April”, parked in the parking lot of the city Rademio.He was sitting on the floor cross-legged in the lotus position and folded his hands on them, because of what seemed like a carved stone idol of some sects (especially when you consider a straight face and bald head).

At this very moment, “servants” Mateus were just 10 birds.

In general, the “borrowing” the eyes and ears of a very heavy load on the magician brain, and only collect information from 10 birds at the same time could lead to the fact that the magician would have bled from the nose and ears, and then he did and would have fallen into a swoon.

In other words, Matheus was an excellent magician.

– Still, no wonder they say that brains are made up of muscle.

– Did someone other than you, so says Vivi ..?

Both girls squad Gillette – assassin and mage Vivi Zita – talking, looking at sitting on the floor and control “servants” Mateus.

Matthews, by the way, did not react.

He was too busy running “servants.”

– He is, I suppose, can now be “muscles” on the forehead to write, he did not notice – Vivi said.

It was very noticeable girl with shiny wavy hair and a stern look.

Lofty and even volitional facial features suggests the idea of noble birth. Her appearance is still retained some of the children’s features, but it almost did not feel weak, due to which it would like to patronize.

Perhaps … if she suddenly appeared at some dinner ball, you did not have stood it.

And that’s why it would be unlucky victim realized that this girl – an assassin, only when it is a weapon would have dug into the vital organs. Vivi hardly talked about his past, but, judging by her behavior, she obviously learned to be assassins, to specialize in operations in high society.

– Better mustache pririsuy him – replied Zita, smiling stiffly.

She wore glasses with round lenses, neatly cropped hair reached only to his shoulders. In general, she looked nowhere near as elegant and noble, like Vivi, but at the same time, this simplicity gave softness and tenderness. Maybe if she was dressed in a beautiful dress, it would look very attractive. But Zita, as a magician, favored practicality, walking in sturdy work boots and other equipment gruff appearance.

In appearance, skills and characters Vivi and Zita so different from one another that it was difficult to find at least something that united them … but for some reason, probably because of approximately equal age, next to each other they seemed like sisters.

– Maybe, hair paint, and then hurt his noggin sad. Uh, I’m just doing a favor!

– It seems to me, Matheus not bald, he just shorn nalyso.

– I’m sure it’s just because he does not want to comb and so on. Oh, I come up … if the hair tattoo, they are never confused, and wash

them will not have to, right?

– Hold on, Vivi, where did you get the needle?

Zita hastened to straighten it.

It seems that she wanted to play some kind of a cruel joke with who

sat like a statue Matheus … although, in its defense, it looked so that it was difficult to hold back. Vivi was often precocious grim and focused – probably affected trained assassin – but this was compensated by such moments, in which she behaved quite childish.

But…

– What are you doing? – There was suddenly a voice behind Vivi, dragged the needle-to-head Mateus, and clung to her Zita.

They even did not have to turn around.

They knew that the voice belonged to the commander of the detachment Gillette – Gillette Alberico Knight.

– A?!

From astonishment needle slipped out of the hands of Vivi, describe an arc air and stuck to the floor, flying very close to the nose Alberic.

– … – Alberic not without surprise looked around their eyes.

– A, p-n-sorry! – Hurriedly exclaimed Vivi.

This girl-assassin has never lost his presence of mind to anyone … except Alberic Gillette. Next to this young man, even she became meek and obedient. This change of character was so sharp that unwittingly brings a smile the rest of the squad, and only Alberic himself somehow managed to ignore how unnatural it looked.

– Vivi … – he said with a sigh Alberic. – Do I understand correctly that the “needle” for you – the same thing for me, “the sword”?

– Uh .. A. Yes – Vivi hardly thought about the answer.

At Knights swords. In Assassins needle.

From the point of view of “arms and its owner” is really equivalent things.

– If so … then they should not be so easy to take out, even if they seem to you a part of your body. This gun, with its help you can save a person or injure him. Always remember that when going to use it.

– …

Alberic words were not just right, but too true, and not just naive, and naive in the extreme. Vivi even more confused, but …

– Well, – she nodded and stared at the floor.

Her cheeks slightly reddened, but Alberic or again did not notice, or did not understand why it happened.Glancing them with Vivi look Zita smiled slightly.

– By the way, you do not know what happened to Nicholas? – Alberic suddenly asked, as if forgetting that only happened conversation.

He never stretched reprimanded his subordinates. He makes a clear distinction between their emotions and behavior in humans. For such a young man, to the same noble, it was a rare quality.

– A. I asked him to go for food, – said Zita.

– You sent for groceries … Nicholas?

– Yes. His wound finally healed, and he was eager to work with his hands.

– Ah … – Alberic nodded, realizing what it was about.

Some time ago, Nicholas broke his hand, fighting the subversive hired Chaika.

Mateus recovered bone healing magic, but “glued” the bone can not be considered healed. Nicholas had time to his hand was as strong as ever. For the average person this would mean that the use of the injured hand is not worth it.

But if you do not strain your muscles, they begin to wither.

Whatever hero nor was Nicholas, for the month that he did not use a hand, it significantly weakened.Therefore, he sought not only as quickly as possible to return to training, but also tried to take on more physical work.

– Well, I think he will be back soon, – said Alberic, and then …

– Found!!! – There was a loud cry.

Shouted Matheus, who without warning came from the statue regime and opened his eyes. Immediately interrupting his meditation, he rose, turned to Alberico and continued:

– I found them, found the m …?

On the face of Mateus appeared suspicious.

And Alberic, and Zita, and Vivi were frozen in bizarre poses. Alberic slightly arched back, and Vivi and Zita all stood half-turned, as if ready at any time to embark their heels.

– …Something happened?

– You scared us! – Exclaimed Vivi. – You are so suddenly cried!

– Um … I'm sorry – sorry Matheus before Vivi, scratching his smooth head, and then turned back to Alberic. – Mr. Gillette. I found them.

– The very Seagull Gas?

– Exactly. He is also a saboteur with it – boldly Matheus nodded. – The girl next-saboteur I have not seen them, but …

– … We can assume that they are all in the city.

– Exactly.

The detachment arrived in Gillette Alberic Rademio in search of traces of a "hero" by the name of Simon Scania, but their initial task was to find a girl named Seagull Gas impersonate Gaza Emperor's daughter. She was looking for "heroes" … or rather,

“remains”, which they owned, which meant that she could appear in Rademio. For this reason, Alberic ordered Mateus Leonardo engaged in intelligence.

– And where are they?

– Exactly the opposite side of town to the east.

– …

Alberic frowned and folded his arms across his chest.

– The commander of Gillette? – Anxiously asked Zita.

Vivi also looked as if ready at any moment to embark in a fight, and checked the contents of his pockets, which hide the needle and other weapons. At first glance, this might seem an unarmed woman, but it is not.Even naked she did not remain defenseless – could lurk in the hair noose, and in the mouth – the needle.

But…

– Now we can only fight we Vivi. I’m afraid we are not strong enough – Alberic said. – We’d better wait until Leonardo did not return from a reconnaissance, and Nicholas – from the store.

– You … strongly overestimate saboteurs – Vivi replied with displeasure.

Perhaps it was a simple bias, perhaps, some events from the past Vivi, but it is rarely perceived saboteurs seriously and looked down on them. Or maybe blame should that profession assassin and saboteur echoed in many respects, leading to anger and irritation towards “colleagues.”

– Their mage useless in battle, so that you and one is enough to …

– No. I’ve heard that the “devil Wars” Clan ACURE and “Pleiades” Clan Subaru own secret technique, “Zheleznokroviem”.

After Alberic learned that The Seagull subservient two saboteur – man and woman – he once studied the material on “the war

mongrel." The enemy, as you know, you need to know in person, and it is desirable to know everything possible before the start of the battle.

– This means that they are on time can double the capacity of their bodies by breathing techniques and self-hypnosis. I do not know whether they are capable of saboteurs at this, but if you can be … difficult. That guy, the saboteur already skilled. I think his girlfriend at about the same level. And if so, we … Vivi – a contract up to this point, Alberic smiled sourly dissatisfied Vivi. – Kill them, maybe we can, but to capture …

Joking with saboteurs impossible.

Alberic heard and that they, if necessary, could blow himself up with gunpowder. Capture live saboteur – a daunting task.

– But in the living we need to leave a Seagull gas to extract information from it?

– We have already talked about this recently. Perhaps it is just a puppet. Therefore, we must as far as possible to take alive anyone who has it anything to do – quietly and instructively answered Alberic. – Ideally you should do without any deaths.

– Mr. Alberic … – Vivi stared at his boss.

He said a few words, but in a voice that seemed addressed more to himself than to her:

– Because we are no longer at war.

Yes. Now is not the time when the value of a person depends on how much he had killed.

Already it is impossible to think that you can "kill – and be done with it."

For a man whose whole life preparing for war (and what's more – the war was preparing his whole family), it was really a desperate time. He could not use his unique skills. You could say he took the meaning of life.

But…

– As a knight, I want to try to fight him one on one, – said Alberic Vivi with a tight smile. – I do not want any deaths among the opponents, not to mention my subordinates. Therefore, for the confidence we need to attack the whole detachment.

– Well … – Vivi said, agreeing, finally, to his opinion.

– Matheus. I'm sorry, but I need you to keep track of them continued. When Nicholas and Leonardo will return, we will go after them. Do not miss them, as we do not get together.

– Roger that.

In response to the words of Alberic Matheus nodded, he picked up Gundo, closed his eyes and sat back down on the floor.

***

She was like unhealed scar.

Deep, like a wound … a crack in the ground and filling it dense white fog.

Some would call this delightful picture.

These majestic landscapes are often taken for the soul of the beholder. Especially when it was possible to see such under itself. Awareness of their own insignificance expanded horizons and taught to look at what is happening in the future.

But … if you remember that from the valley of "no return", this immense landscape was beginning to seem ominous. He seemed to be turned into darkness, in which one could never guess that the threat lurking nearby, and at what point they will appear before you.

– I see … – Akari said, squinting. – So you're like, "the valley from which no one returns."

She stood at the edge of a giant fault. Akari stumbled a little, and

would immediately flew to the very bottom … but, nevertheless, she stood quietly and gazed in dense fog.

The valley is located east of Rademio.

The area itself was mountainous, and it is not surprising that between the mountains of the valley formed … but specifically “the valley, from which no one returns” appeared due to the fault of the old split the bottom of the valley. Naturally, she went deeper … much deeper plain on which stood Rademio.

– Eternal mist? How unusual.

Although she looked into the mist under his feet … Akari hardly anything seen before. You can not even figure out how deep the valley. Earlier I tried to measure the depth of the Torah by a thrown stone, but the sound from the fall they have not heard. Either fault left so that there are not the sounds, or something to soften the fall of the stone may have moss or sand. Naturally, they did not know the correct answer.

– We were told that this place since ancient times often clouded by fog, – said Thor, who was standing on the side of Akari.

– Given the fact that we even do not know the depth, trying to go down risky.

– I hope the magic of Gulls will help us to understand the approximate form of the gorge, – said the Torah and turned.

Seagull behind them sat near the coffin uncovered, remove parts of it and gathered his Gundo.

It seemed Gundo old places with worn paint and a lot of small scratches, testified that they had already enjoyed a very long time. To the long barrel and mechanism was attached to the ridge-like detail, because of which it resembled more an organism than just a “tool”.

“By the way, if you think about …” – suddenly I thought Toru looking at Gundo Gulls. – “Whose was it before?”

Seagull looked about 15, but Gundo it looked like it was used 10-20 years. Hardly Seagull brought him to this state itself. She received it from someone.

Perhaps this Gundo enjoyed himself Arthur Gas.

– … Done! – Said the seagull and raised Gundo.

She raised her habitual movement with itself the size of the device, and clung to the top enshrined sight.

In the hands of a tiny Seagulls Gundo looked particularly menacing.

But at the same time Gulls movements were perfectly natural. Sure, she had a great experience with them.She kept confident and graceful, like some beast.

– …

Apparently, she now chooses where she should stand. Not looking up from his sight, she walked forward …

– M-Mya ?!

But on the fourth step of the land ended.

Seagull immediately tumbled forward. Naturally, no cable is wound on it was not. She flew straight down to is unknown how deep the bottom …

– Hmm.

… But not for long.

Akari immediately caught her by the collar and pulled his hammer back. A little tugging on his feet in the air Seagull finally fell next to the Torah and Akari.

– I often think … – broken voice said Toru looking at lying in front of Seagull. – How did you survived before we met?

How can I put it … she was too careless in their daily lives.

She frequently distracted while driving that miraculously avoided accidents, and even when the go, and then stumbled. When she is ready, then immediately he was cutting his fingers with a knife, and then dropped her plate … in other words, it was awkward around.

It seems that for the concentration and sense of balance, which it had in the critical moments, Seagull was paying that abruptly became several times less attentive in everyday life. Even when the Torah met with her, she wandered aimlessly through the woods.

Inability to focus on the location and distraction.

Travelling alone dangerous for her life.

– Torah – Chaika said, rising to his feet. – Announce. The new fact.

– New fact? What else? – Thor frowned.

Seagull grunted loudly and for some reason clenched her fists.

– Ya Surprisingly strong.

– Do not be proud – said irritably Torah. – And in general, have come to clarify the situation with the help of his magic.

– M … – Seagull looked first to the Torah, and then on the rock, which had just fallen. – The best place. There.

– A? Ah, that's it.

Tohru nodded.

Magic – it is very subtle.

It happens that the spell does not work simply because some condition is met a little wrong. Therefore magicians shifted to Gundo care of all the moments that did not require environmental accounting environment, and themselves carefully adjusts a spell when used magic. Temperature. Humidity. Atmosphere pressure.Distance. The position of the stars. Location of power lines. It is necessary to take into account these and many other components that are inextricably intertwined with each other.

The position of the mage, too, was one of them.

It seems that the best place for the use of spells, which would be able to explore the valley, was a point in the step from the brink. Seagull believes that even in the half-step error would greatly impact on the accuracy of the spell.

– However, – he said the Torah once again eyeing open eyes. – In the air you can not stand. If contact has been Frederick, you would be able to lean over to her, but …

Fantasmagoricheskayaaya girl dragon somewhere has got, and they it is no longer seen.

In the words of Frederick, however, he opposed the detachment of the Torah, so hopefully it's probably not worth it …

– The Torah. Hold.

Seagull stood in a strange position.

She bent down and put back, becoming a bit like a duck …

– Top. Pull. Get. But the fall. Therefore, the Torah. Hold.

Apparently, she was going to bend over the edge of a cliff with Gundo and Toru had to hold it, it will not drop.

– So? .. – Thor went to Chaika and cupped her hands around the waist.

– We, ah ?!

– A?!

Seagull cried in such an unusual voice that Torah reflexively jerked his hands away.

– What?!

– H … normal. Problems. No.

– …

Thor frowned, then again took the Seagull's waist, holding her.

However, in order to combine efforts and take a few steps up the cliff, it took them a long time. Surely by this picture it looked very silly.

But…

"Well, the position we have …" – suddenly noticed the Torah and frowned.

Move aside the loins Gulls.

And arching back Toru, who tried to balance it.

From the side it might seem that …

– Um … excellent, brother, – mused Akari. – Perfectly. No one compares to you the ability to grab the women's ass. I'm in great delight.

– Recovers than admire.

– And, of course, my delights honed your ability to take pants in such a difficult situation.

– Yes, I have no such delusions skills! – Exclaimed the Torah.

Chaika also read out a spell, it is not listening to their conversation:

– Efta. Helste. RU. Belguir. Fai. Seve …

After these words, the mechanism Gundo connected cord from her neck began to glow with blue light, and the next moment there were charts and letters from around the empty barrel. They began to rotate and merge with each other to form a complete magical scheme.

– "Detector" … come forth.

Seagull launched a prepared spell.

There was a high-pitched sound.

He was so tall that the ears barely caught it. Had he been a little higher, and it would do no one heard. The sound was repeated a few more times, and then there was silence again.

And then…

– Hey … – I called Torah with hooded eyes.

– M?

– You still need to be in this position?

– No. Pose cancel.

– …

Continuing to hold the Seagull, the Torah took two steps back, then released her.

Seagull immediately sat down on the ground, grabbed Gundo and closed her eyes. Search spell broadcast results magician brain, but for their “translation” into intelligible form required some time.

– By the way, Akari – Thor turned to his sister.

– What?

– What are you trying to do?

– Hmm? What are you?

– Why are you standing so ?! – He asked Akari, somehow standing in full combat readiness with arms outstretched.

– You’re on it .. Hmm. To be honest … – coolly replied Akari.

By the way, not only that she was standing in a pose “Now I’ll grab ‘her fingers as if to live their lives and constantly moving. From this picture of Thor unwittingly worried about what she was going to do.

– I thought that you should be how to cuddle, brother.

– …

Tohru decided to respond to it – a more expensive, and simply waited.

– When I saw you hug Seagull, then suddenly I noticed – said Akari, gradually approaching the Torah. – If you think about it, I have not squeezed you, brother very beginning of our journey.

– What? – Asked the Torah, squinting.

However, restless fingers Akari expressed her desire is even better than words.

– If I have some time not squeezed his brother, I started terrible crash.

– I hear it for the first time.

– Yeah. I think now it will happen for the first time in my life.

– Yes, it is clear to anyone that you just pretend! – Toru said he got up in the rack.

– Brother. You're being unfair.

– What is it?

– Moreover, you're dishonest.

– What are you talking?

– You're just squeezed myself that Seagull.

– It was necessary!

"And what's more, I do not remember so defiantly moving his fingers."

– I also need. Ah. Everything bad is about to begin, – uttering these words as always indifferent voice, Akari shaken.

But it has issued that these actions did not felt despair.

– Brother. If your sister is to you a little bit cute, give her a cuddle yourself.

– Are you threatening me, or what?

Even for some time, they wrote out the circles, periodically exchanging remarks, like two bears, trying to intimidate each other.

– Graduated … – he said to hold on to Gundo Seagull and sighed with relief.

– And How? – Asked the Torah, then immediately grabbed the wrist Akari, tried to seize the moment. – And in general, how the magic of your work?

– Explore. Valley. Condition. Echolocation.

Judging by the words of Seagulls … its method in many respects similar to the Torah attempt to measure the depth of the valley by a thrown stone. Of course, the magic of Gulls are much more complex and enables using echo and reverb to measure the distance to evaluate the terrain and detect objects even in darkness or fog.

– And ..?

Perhaps because of this valley “no returns” … but if it came from the people “remains”, Toru squad had to follow him. However, in view of the fact that from this valley no one ever comes back, and that she was always tightened mist descend without any plan is very unwise.

They wanted to understand the least about what is happening in the valley, but …

– Is unclear … – Seagull upset pouted.

– A? Like this?

– Explore the magic. Could not – Seagull shaking her head.

It seems that her “detector” is not able to break through the fog. Grappled with each other Torah and Akari unanimously frowned.

– Look … yes, we are not at war, but from death stand a few steps. Be so kind to take it seriously.

– No. Failure – Seagull replied sulkily, and seems a bit offended.

– So it's not your fault?

– Magic. No problem. The problem … Valley. No. Fog.

– …What?

– Probably … magic – Chaika pointed the finger at the valley … or rather, in the fog fills it.

– You mean it's all the magic?

Thor looked dumbfounded eyes mist.

By the way, he seemed slightly bluish and different from the usual …

– Clear. That's, perhaps, and this is possible – immediately he said.

Many people hear the word "water", imagine the liquid in the vessel, but the water – it is flowing from the leaves of the morning dew, rain, rivers, and seas. Similarly, the magic may have a variety of scales.

Torah itself under the "magic" refers primarily to spell like the ones that uses gull, so rusty, that there are large-scale spell involving several magicians and huge Gundo.

He heard about it only on an amateur level, but during the war used the magic of mass destruction, not inferior in strength to natural disasters, as well as magic, keep in the air flying fortress.

In comparison with the scale of such magic, which plunges the whole valley in the mist, it seemed a trifle.

Besides…

– A precise description. Magical. Matter – he explained Seagull,

raising his index finger.

– Matter?

– It creates the magic. They react to magic. Various applications.

The result is a magical treatment of simple resources – stone, wood and so on.

Magee called the results of such treatments “matter”.

Such materials could be used in spells of mass destruction as “strikers” attacked the enemies like a sledgehammer blows. More experienced saboteurs were told that such a spell so powerful that when you meet them, you can have nothing on hoping.

– Wait a minute … – muttered the Torah, realizing something.

Fill in matter a whole valley.

In such it was capable of not every counter magician. In addition, it required a strong source of magical energy. Otherwise, create as many magic materials and to support them would not have succeeded.

In other words…

– This Scania Simon, incidentally, does not copy the graph Abarth ..?

– M. Perhaps – Seagull nodded.

Most likely Scania Simon not only owned “remains”, and used them in a large Gundo for powerful spells.Moreover, this valley was a source of dry fuel, so magical energy he had in abundance.

– Then … – Thor looked down into the valley, holding the hands of Akari. – This mist – “lock” Scania Simon?

– Maybe … – Chaika confirmed.

– Now I want even less to climb without preparation, – he muttered

frowning Torah.

If the reason, no one returned by that of the valley, was that Simon Scania using the mist turned it into a fortress … then all is very bad. It turns out that even the visits of residents Rademio he regarded as "invasion".So, trying to steal the remains of The Seagull, he clearly perceive as "the enemy."

And how Simon Scania versed with the intruders and enemies could only guess.

– We need to go back and thoroughly prepare, – said Thor, turning away from the valley.

Ideally … we have to wait for the return of Frederica.

It is difficult to say to what extent she was going to help them, but the magic dragon transformations and related therapeutic abilities could play a decisive role. Even if they knew about the limitations of its treatment of its own victory over it – she could recover only "parts" of the body, but against poisons and diseases that affect the whole body, was powerless – but still.

– Antidotes ready?

– Basic types – Akari nodded.

Naturally, they did not have the possibility to neutralize all poisons. But at the same time … oddly enough, but the use of poisons require special knowledge. In other words, to fit a specific situation only a limited number of poisons. If Scania Simon was not going to use any particularly rare poison, their stock would be enough basic antidotes.

– Come on. Gull?

– M. Wait. Time.

Recovering himself, Seagull immediately began dismantling its Gundo.

Thor turned to her and started to speak:

– Now we are back to the “Svetlana” and …

But then …

– …

He frowned and stopped.

His hands are near the komboklinkam belt.

Akari is also slightly bent down and reached for a hammer.

– M?

Seagull’s eyes widened in astonishment, not understanding the reaction of their subordinates.

However, one thing became clear to her. They were preparing for battle.

But … where is their enemy?

Around as the eye could see, there was no one.

– Thor? Akari?

– Seagull – appealed to her the Torah, trying not to wake up in an even more aggressive stance that the enemy did not notice anything.

But he looked in a very definite way.

– Gundo not understand. If you can, prepare a combat spell.

– M … um, – Seagull stress nodded.

– Get out! – Loudly commanded the Torah.

His voice echoed off the rocks around them and gradually subsided.

– You do not expect that it would be so easy, however slaughter us?

And in the next moment …

– … Impressive.

By Air ran wave.

And this is not a metaphor. It happened just that.

By air, as if on the surface of water, it broke up the ring.

Along with him came the quiet hum from the very center of the ring, left white car.

Apparently, it was magic.

They crept by manipulating light and sound. Appearing out of nowhere a huge machine seemed very surreal.There was a feeling as if they are all the time watched only on theatrical scenery.

– We caught up .. -? Said Toru muffled.

He recognized logo in the form of a wolf on the “nose” of the machine.

Except for the size, it’s the same emblem that adorned sheath blade Gillette Alberic – knight, chasing Seagull.

– So she knew that from such a distance we notice – there was a girl’s voice.

He seemed familiar Torah.

“Where I have heard of it?”

Most likely, it belonged to one of the girls to move together with Gillette.

It seems that it was the girl-magician, or rather a sort of engineer craftsman, skillful with Gundo and komboklinkami.

– Vision and hearing we can still cheat, but …

– But the feeling something more – finished Toru.- foolish to think that you are well hidden, if cheated only two feelings.

The attacks surreptitiously saboteurs understood very well.

Naturally, they thoroughly know the techniques to disappear from the eyes, to suppress the voice and hide the presence of a fully merge with the environment.

large machine movement inevitably created a vibration, from which you can get rid of only raising the aggregate into the air.

But most importantly, the Torah clearly felt her presence. It was not as distinct as bloodthirsty aura … but it is threatening, suffocating presence did not go unnoticed.

– …

The white car stopped about a hundred yards from the squad Torah.

Following this, the door swung open on the sides and on each side of the machine came on 2 people.

“In one more?”

Thor squinted and looked at “enemies”.

Three of the four he learned.

Knight Alberic.

Mercenary Nicholas.

Assassin Vivi.

I think they called each other by these names.

Latest … Toru was unfamiliar, like a half-breed, a young man with animal ears and a tail. But, of course, it is also to be feared. Though he looked frail, but if his body was changed by magic, it’s hard to say what skills he acquired at the same time. He could and did turn out to be the most unpleasant of the opponents.

In addition, four of the case is not restricted.

At least was someone else who is driving the car.

“That’s bad…”

Hardly Alberic squad will make mistakes and this time. It seems that Nicholas’s hand completely healed, and besides, they had not known and what they are capable fighter.

It can be said, the squad lost the Torah as the largest and preparedness.

In a fair fight for victory chances were virtually absent.

– Akari – said Toru, staring at the detachment Alberic. – Both on the left of you. Mastered?

Mercenary Nikolai … and boy-Blood.

Strong in the form of Nicholas and Blood with unknown fighting style.

It might seem that the Torah shoved on Akari most annoying enemies.

But…

– Brother … – Akari responded remarkably untouched voice. – It turns out, you’re so kind.

It seems that she came to the same conclusion that he did. Given the fact that they grew up in a village and were trained in some teachers, this is not surprising.

– Although I would not mind, if you started a little trust in me.

– It’s not that I doubt your abilities.

– I understand, but … but now is not the time to complain about your excessive care. I take my words back.

– Thank you – briefly replied Thor.

Nikolai seemed formidable giant, but in reality, he “recovered” only recently.

Of course, thanks to the magic of the broken bone has fused his hands … but it is unlikely he recently worked it as before. If he'd overexert unhealed hand, it would break again. Further, multiple fractures would lead to "problems" in the bones and loss of its strength.

But if he did not use his hand … his muscles were to weaken.

Naturally, he was still a man of extraordinary techniques … but still had to become less formidable opponent than the previous time.

More … boy-Blood.

He was unarmed.

Anyway, visually no major weapons he did not bring. Perhaps somewhere under your clothes hid daggers, but thin, even frail body of a type allowed to judge that the great physical strength he did not possess.

He could attack only near, fast attacks.

So, for this pair Akari probably would have been easier opponents by her arms, allowing you to keep the enemy at a distance.

– Seagull – Thor said in a hushed voice. – If the part of their machines will be at least some movement, drop everything, do not think about us and shoot. If possible, the most powerful spell.

– M … um, – Seagull gulped and nodded.

And then…

– Torah and … Akari, am I right? – Alberic spoke to them in a clear voice.

Neither Thor nor Akari did not call out his name. Apparently, they asked around in Delsorante. So … their school and the name of his native village, they still did not know. When they were living as refugees, that no one ever called his name.

– In any case, I ask. Surrender. I do not want pointless battle.

– Nonsense going delirious talk, – said Toru extracting komboklinki from its sheath.

– You're going to fight to the last?

The voice sounded astonished.

It seems that he did not expect that saboteurs may fight in unfavorable conditions for them.

In contrast to the noble and notable people carrying the burden of religious beliefs forced to justify the confidence and support of the state of mind of civilians, saboteurs have had no reason to sacrifice their lives to defend anything. they could even cut the family ties if necessary.

But…

– I understand that in your eyes we are worse than dogs – we have no principles, no faith, we just happily wags his tail to employers. But that's why there is one trait that does not even have crossed us.

Torah combined printing on hand stamped on the handle.

Feelings widened and, from that moment on, the Torah komboklinki steel parts of the body. Of course, this is not Gundo magician, but enhanced senses allowed to increase the accuracy of the movements. So the owner komboklinkov could even tie their shoelaces using.

– I mean, saboteurs would not hand over their client for fear of the enemy.

Though saboteurs on the battlefield and hate … they themselves are proud of their unquestioning loyalty to their masters. Saboteur could not leave or betray his master. Literally could not. At this very moment he ceased to be a saboteur, a professional in their field, and turned into a common criminal.

Since the other principles and taboos have saboteurs was not for this they held as their own meaning of life.

– What big words – mockingly said assassin named Vivi. – But the true essence of saboteurs – cheats and tricks, is not it?

– And Assassins?

– …

Vivi was not found with the answer.

Strictly speaking … saboteurs and assassins did not differ from each other.

These are two unattractive profession, engaged in dark, dirty business, from which others look away.

The only difference is that if the saboteurs – jack of all trades, the Assassins specialize in one thing. Also, the difference can be called that Assassins are usually not acted on the battlefield and on the home front, among the ordinary people.

– Clearly, – said Alberic, interfering with talking Torah and Vivi. – I was sure that the saboteurs had studied, but it seems that I still have a lot to learn. I apologize for my rudeness and insulting offer to surrender.

Alberic took his sword and stepped forward.

He looked at the Torah view, which was no doubt a drop, and said:

– No matter how small it may be, it is still war. Well, let our forces will determine the winner. I, Knight Alberic Gillette, I declare war on you.

These words were the signal for the beginning of the battle.

***

At a time when the numerical superiority on the side of the enemy, try to tighten the bout extremely stupid.

Tighten them in a long exhausting battle – and the chances of winning would have evaporated. The cornerstone of their victory

was to be an early capture of the benefits and conditions of dictation. Saboteurs perfectly able to shoot down opponents with a sense of his speed.

But…

– “I am the steel,” – the beginning of the reading of Akari “Zheleznokroviya” key, not taking his eyes off opponents. – “Steel no fear,” “doubt become unknown”, “standing against the enemy, I will not hesitate,” “I have a gun, carrying your death.”

With these words she opened the door that is.

This procedure is the release of sealed deep in the body fierce beast. After each sentence she felt like falling down the chain dormant in the heart of creation, and it pops up all of the above.

Colorless beast, brought up for battle.

Do not raging. Do not cruel.

Just extremely dangerous, like a flame or a blade.

– Phew …

Akari faintly smiled and licked her lips.

Blood circulates at high speed through the body, all muscles could at any moment to give everything to the full. In the consciousness of Akari rapid stream flowed dilated experience. “Zheleznokrovie” so dramatically increased the sensitivity that the person using it seemed that he was more than usual.

And that is why this technique – a double-edged weapon.

Without careful monitoring, you can remain completely defenseless.

– …

Entered in the battle mode Akari peered into the oncoming enemies.

They were the antithesis of each other.

Close muscular middle-aged man.

And the skinny little boy-Blood.

The greatest attention should be given to a man with an impressive kombomechom – Nicholas.

Of course, the boy would hardly worth ignoring. But the skinny kind of leads to the conclusion that strong muscles he did not possess. Anyway, his body can not be called a warrior's body.

Surely he had with him some kind of weapon, but it is likely that some small and targeted for lethal strikes in vital organs. This means that the opportunities to attack him a little bit. Suffice it to protect vital organs from targeted attacks.

At the same time Nicholas, along with his great sword strong enough to break through any defense. One missed hitting could be enough to break the muscles and bone fracture. In the end, "Zheleznokrovie" could strengthen the body, and therefore, Akari had to avoid a frontal collision with an opponent.

– What? – With a half smile I asked Nicholas. – Are not you going to attack?

He said that the above-mentioned "cornerstone".

Outnumbered Akari could not stand by and watch. She had not a moment to lose and try to win as quickly as possible.

But, alas, behind her was a seagull, unable to fight in close combat.

Most likely, opponents just waiting for exactly what it is separated from it.

– If you're not going to attack, I'll do it, – said Nikolay, vzvalivaya sword on his shoulder. – Although the fight against women and it will be difficult.

And in the next moment he was gone ….

Do not Nicholas.

And that Blood that was standing nearby.

– ..

Yes, the words of Nicholas forced her to shift attention to it. But at the same time, she did not let the boy out of sight. But it missed him. This meant that he moved so fast that the eye did not keep up with him.

But…

“Probably I should say thank you to Guy” – flashed the thought in the back of Akari consciousness.

After the sudden appearance and disappearance of Guy she is not so surprised at such things.

Movement different from movements of the boy Guy. Yes, she missed him, but could still find again. Thanks to the “Zheleznokroviyu” Akari already knew what had happened.

Boy-Blood jumped aside to go to the other side.

She could not see his eyes, but could feel the vibration of the earth at a time when he pulled away from her.

Left? On right? Top?

Akari immediately found the answer and lifted her hammer, ready to defend himself. Light opponents often relied on agility to apply more dangerous blows. Rotary Hammer Akari was ready to meet a hacking attack from the jump, and the stabbing flank attack with acceleration.

Akari assumed that the boy attacked her on top.

But…

– … ?!

He did not attack.

Moreover, in the next moment he landed right on Akari – more than he could reach her hammer. Yes, he really jumped, but not to try to attack her.

But why?

Akari realized it the next moment.

Its hammer, which she dropped almost instinctively took a powerful blow. For a moment, at which Akari looked away from Nicholas opinion, he could swing a sword.

– … !!!

The Sword and the Sickle grappled with a loud clang.

Put Akari hammer a moment later or not applicable "Zheleznokrovie" and the sword would have pierced her breast.

Nicholas … was terrible adversary. Surprisingly fast for its size.

Of course, the Torah was telling her about his abilities, and she tried to be careful … but Nicholas had enough of the moment, won the boy in order to exploit this vulnerability, and to strike.

The blade slid along the hammer, striking sparks.

Well, that hammer is very strong weapon.

What a thin sword in its place would be immediately broken.

– H … ng

Unable to resist the power of the enemy, Akari beginning tend to hammer in the direction to retract stroke, together with the writing on the ground round the left foot to get closer to the side of the enemy. the enemy was a two-handed sword. This meant that during the swing side of it were left unprotected and defenseless remained after the side opposite to the direction of swing.

There was a click, and boot from it seemed hidden blade.

It was intended to strike at the enemy's side or in the armor joints. Mortal wounds inflicted it is not, but could weaken the enemy.

Akari was about to strike the blow …

– … ?!

Suddenly the corner of my eye noticed that the boy began to move again.

He approached exactly right to Akari, to the foot, which she revolved.

–

She missed the bandwagon and fall, the battle would have been completely lost.

Not daring to continue to attack Akari force beginning omit an arc in the direction of Nicholas left leg, thus standing in an unstable position.

– Heh … – on the face of Nicholas I flashed a smile.

– Tx ?!

He abruptly changed the trajectory of the sword … or rather, the direction in which applies the force. Slides along the hammer blade suddenly began to press strongly on her side. Due to the fact that Akari left leg was still in the air, she could not stand such a pulse and began to overwhelm.

Full drop to avoid possible … but only due to the fact that she put her knee into the ground.

"Enough already rush ..!" – Exclaimed mentally Akari, again noticing the corner of his eye half-breed … or rather, he specifically drew attention to themselves.

Her opponents acted team. And we interacted at a very high level.

In fact, the boy-Blood does not even attacked. He just flashed constantly in sight Akari. And, of course, she could not ignore it. But as soon as her attention switched to him, the attack began Nikolai.

And besides, Nicholas himself, in spite of its impressive size, was surprisingly quick and agile.

Change the path in the middle of a two-handed sword stroke practically impossible. At first glance it might seem that Nicholas – one who wins by brute force of the enemy, without relying on any equipment, but in reality it was the opposite. It is carefully tempered not only your muscles, but also skills that could be used very cleverly.

– Fx … – I dropped Akari.

She was on her knees, and, therefore, could not move quickly. You could say it has lost half of the force “Zheleznokroviya”.

Of course, so just get up she would not have allowed. So she had to somehow resist the attacks of Nicholas and mongrels, using only the torso.

– Hmph!

Nicholas swung his leg as if to say, “Now it’s my turn.”

And what’s more, he put in his kick remaining momentum swing the sword, and the blow was going to be very powerful. The toe of his shoe was not hiding the blade, like Akari, but he was bound in steel and it is suited as a shock weapon.

– Fx …

Akari immediately took a hammer blow.

But Nicholas this unit did not embarrass. As soon as his leg was thrown back, he is not wasting a moment, he raised his sword again.

– MN … r …

This attack Akari again, though with difficulty, but blocked the hammer …

– Fx …

– What do you look on the sides?

Between attacks Nicholas completely lacked pause … Akari forced to kneel and protected. As soon as she was trying to find an opportunity to break out of this situation, again flashed before my eyes Blood, disturbing focus.

Whether this battle duel, she would have been able to do something.

But now…

– Calm down, – said Nikolay, continuing to bring down to it blow by blow. – We are not ordered to kill you. Well, if you strongly resist, you can lose one or two limbs. But you're not only a girl, but the saboteur – so you prepare for this, huh?

He did not boasted. He just said, based on his military experience.

Let her and did not want to spend the rest of life without limbs, the exchange of hands of the enemy was considered worthy of life – these are the rules of these battles.

– …

Akari said nothing.

She was under the influence of "Zheleznokroviya", do not leave resources for disputes with the enemy.

***

At the same time, the battle was too severe for the Torah.

Naturally, it was the main opponent of Alberic.

– ..

In the Torah, one after another hit by confident, honed stabbing and slashing blows.

They were terribly simple and just as fast.

If we compare the purebred fencing equipment knights with the methods of saboteurs and mercenaries, you will notice that the knights rely on simple and unsophisticated attack … but at the same time, their level of skill reached exorbitant levels such that these techniques do not leave the enemy a chance. Not that their attack had any special weight or velocity – they just perfected to the point that one becomes deadly.

And besides, the attack flowed incredibly fast one to another.

And it is not in the movement speed. Perhaps, for the Torah rate still superior to his opponent. But Alberic did not commit a single unnecessary movement. Because of this his blade moved so that even the Torah hardly keep up with him.

– Heck!..

Like Akari, Toru used “Zheleznokrovie”, but it was barely enough.

We can say the whole strength “Zheleznokroviya” went only a reflection of Alberic attacks. This knight in itself could fight on par with the saboteur under the influence of the secret techniques.

Such was the power of innate hereditary warrior.

Thor tried several times to force to change the situation, but in those moments immediately intervened Vivi, restraining him. She periodically show up from behind Alberic and metal needles, restricting movement of the Torah.

“Bad…”

Toru nervous.

“Zheleznokrovie” expanded senses, strengthened muscles and accelerates the reaction of the one who used it.

In the battles one on one, that is, in duels without any interference from the outside, it is possible to force the enemy to impose the desired course of the battle. But in the battle against the two men was so much noise that they suppressed any attempt to control the situation, in spite of all the power and speed.

And in such a situation “Zheleznokrovie” limited time soon turned into a loop around his neck.

“I have to somehow interrupt the sequence.”

Probably, this is the panic caused him to make a mistake.

– ..

The next moment, Alberic sharp attack on the Torah pierced side thrust.

– Fx …

At first he felt a kick. And in a moment – a sharp fever.

The blade entered. And it is very deep.

– M!

Alberic drew sword as fast as the thrust to the not stuck in the muscles of the enemy. For pain from the hips increased feeling of moisture.

– Torah ?! – I heard a voice like a cry of seagulls.

But he had no time to turn around to tell her that he was fine.

No pain, no Alberic or Vivi were not going to let him go. At that moment, when he tried to turn around, the Torah could well lose his head.

Yes that there …

“Very bad. What to do?..”

If the pain he could still somehow hide the willpower, the bleeding

is definitely weakened him. He could stretch the muscles, to partially close the wound … but not completely stop the bleeding.

In the battle against the enemy equal in strength so the wound is fatal without exaggeration.

– You lose. Surrender is good.

Most likely, about the same thought and the enemy. Alberic statement sounded so calm, as if he was simply stating a fact, not a boast of his victory.

“Maybe to pretend that I give up, and then podgadat moment and attack?” – Immediately thought the Torah … but it is likely to be proved to be impossible.

Maybe Alberic cheat and succeed, but Vivi is clearly not tolerate mistakes. She could offer something in the spirit of “first break all arms and legs, and then talk.” In any event, in its place the Torah would suggest just that.

“Think. Think. There must be a way … “- struggled strained Torah.

And then above the head …

– ABOUT?

… There was a voice so carefree that seemed completely out of place.

– What’s going on here?

-?!

Alberic departed from the Torah on a step and turned.

Right behind him on the roof of a huge white car sat a figure, which did not exist before.

Miniature girl.

Very conspicuous golden hair and red eyes. Its appearance can be

called a child, but she was looking at the full cruelty of the scene without any fear and even some listless bewilderment.

– And … you smell blood? – I asked the girl, bringing her eyebrows.
– Thor? Eh? What? Wait a minute, the Torah. Are you injured?

– … You're very well see, – he said, frowning girl named Frederick, apparently began to worry.

Then Frederick stood on the roof and kicked the machine with visible discontent thrown at him the finger.

– That's not fair, Thor!

– …

After these words, Alberic with Vivi stopped fighting and stared blankly views on Frederick did not understand the meaning of her words. However, it managed to be so good, that still leaves no chance to counterattack.

– How dare you get a wound without my knowledge ?! This is because I have to kill you!

– Do not bother me, stray cat, what's something dishonest ?! It is not clear where you disappear and go away! – I exclaimed Thor, feeling weakened due to blood loss.

This girl … or rather, this feil was not obliged to assist them in the battle, but, nevertheless, the dragoons could greatly influence what is happening. Regardless of its intentions, it has contributed in a significant and unpleasant situation uncertain.

It is difficult to say whether it is aware of this …

– No I am not a cat – a carefree grin replied Frederick, and then her eyes the color of blood Gillette stared at the detachment. – So, you guys. You are disturbing us.

The tone of her voice was very light, as if she complained to friends or acquaintances.

– …

Alberic and Vivi unanimously silent.

They still could not understand what kind of girl suddenly for no reason at all showed up on the battlefield.

– You know, I'm going to kill Thor. So frustrating to me, when someone like that interferes with, huh?

Naturally, in this particular case it intervened on the side of Frederick.

– Who are you? – I asked squinted Alberic. – I could be wrong, but I think you – the friend of a saboteur?

– Yeah, – Frederick nodded confidently.

The gesture seemed so sincere and innocent, do not know the truth of the Torah that is a horrible creation in fact, he would have had to smile.

– Familiar and there, but one day I will kill Thor. So do not bother, – replied Frederick, when suddenly … – Uh … what is this?

In her shoulder there was a needle.

A little thin arms with a matte finish for greater stealth. In itself it was weak, but it could be fatal due to application of the poison. Assassins use such needles.

– I do not know who you are, but your chatter annoying – grimly said Vivi. – Shut up and go to sleep. Thrust into this nerve lulls faster hypnotic.

– Eh? True?

Surprised eyes wide, Frederick immediately removed the needle, and then easily break the fingers of her pale.

– … ?!

Vivi frozen in a stupor.

Frederick some time staring at the broken needle, then at her, and then said:

– Ah, I got it. The man would have fallen asleep, huh? – She nodded with understanding. – Only against me it will not work. After all, I do not … man.

– Who are you? .. – Involuntarily dropped Alberic, which happens too shocked.

Frederick smiled at the young knight, and then …

– And-and … – as if nothing had happened she dropped.

And in the next moment … on the roof of the car suddenly spun vortex.

– What?!

Alberic with Vivi immediately stood in a fighting stance.

And then the idea started.

Vortex circled with a loud noise. Actually … it was like rather than noise, and the cry of the air. Its density is changed so dramatically that the above machine haze appeared. Dust flew up from the ground into the air, and it was immediately sucked into the vortex.

In the center of the vortex flashed like a lightning flash of blue.

And then…

– D …

It has turned to Nikolai with his partner.

By car, I sat imposingly huge silver dragoons.

– Dragoon ?!

– It’s impossible … here ?!

Vivi and shouted Nicholas.

Value dragoon move, and play the role of stand machine groaned

and creaked. It was not an illusion, but a real monster, which has a real body and a real weight.

And then…

– Mateus! Zita!

Fastest reacted Alberic.

– You have a car sitting dragoons! Eviction it !!!

In response to his words white car passed back sharply. Sitting on her Frederick decided to “roost” is not attached and immediately jumped.

The earth trembled, when she landed.

– So, – continued Frederic, opening his mouth full of fangs.

Kind of like this is extremely far from the person being spoken to in such a clean and exciting language, might seem rather amusing. Someone could even call it nice.

– I – the enemy of one’s hands fall Torah. But if you are going to intervene, I would first have to destroy you all.

– How do you manage to … – asked dumbfounded Alberic, turning to the Torah – to get a reinforcement ..?

– No. To be honest, it really can not be called and the reinforcement – the Torah said, holding his side.

– Well? – Asked Frederick.

Her appearance dramatically changed the situation.

More specifically, it is highly complicated it.

At the detachment Torah was not a single reason to trust Frederick. But at the same time, when it came, it made it clear words what is on their side and opposes detachment Alberic. Of course, this should alarm the people and make Alberic rethink tactics …

– … Eh? – Suddenly he dropped dragoons Frederick and surprise tilted her head on a long neck.

This movement is like was the last straw, as soon as he heard a distinct solid crunch. And with that the Torah felt down below.

In other words…

– What the?

– Oh no! – Said variables in the face of Alberic. – Retreat! Landslide !!!

Open, where they were, has become even more dangerous.

Not only is it located an enormous dragoon – its transformation has created a strong wind and dust storm.The earth beneath their feet became fragile.

And that means …

– Seagull! Akari!

Taking advantage of the confusion Alberic, Thor kicked off the ground and rushed to the Seagull.

Akari, which from the start was closer to her, ran before. She managed to grab the collar of seagulls one hand, and the strap of her coffin – the other, when suddenly …

– ..

Earth abruptly went out from under their feet.

An unexpected rockslide brought a Torah, Seagull, Akari and detachment Alberic, with a crash by sending them to the valley, covered with white fog.

Chapter 3

– You know … I never knew – she said with a carefree smile.

It was autumn, and the clear sky seemed impossibly high.

– Why is everyone so afraid of spies?

Hasumin.

She was born in a trading caravan, together with their parents often stop off at the village ACURE and well get along with saboteurs who lived there. But even if it recognized that they themselves and saboteurs – “different” creation Hasumin never considered their way of life.

In general, everything that did not concern money, roving traders were mostly tolerant of people … and even tolerant.

During his lifetime, they traveled in many lands, bought and sold many products, and as a result got used to the fact that different people live, and look at the world differently. Moreover, they are well aware that all of these “differences” had a specific meaning … and that they themselves, merchants, were only one kind of people.

Just like the “experts of the war” and “war mongrel”, known as saboteurs.

From the viewpoint Hasumin they just another type of people.

But…

– So after saboteurs strong – with pressure told her the Torah, at that time still very young boy.

Torah and Hasumin sat next to each other on an area on the outskirts of the village.

Born into a family of merchants, Hasumin from childhood traveling, seen a lot, and the Torah always interested in listening to her

stories. Often it truly amazed even such details, which she mentioned with indifference. That is why, every time she came here, the Torah or by crook putting off exercise and found time to enjoy another carefree conversation.

– We are strong, so we are afraid. It is obvious.

Torah never left the boundaries of the village and did not know what was manifested fear of other people before saboteurs. Moreover – it is not even know what is considered normal and accepted in the world. So he understood the fear of other people before saboteurs directly on a child … or rather, thought he understood.

– No. It's not that – Hasumin shook her head, still smiling. – Maybe you're strong … but then people were afraid to and magicians, is not it?

– Then …

Thor was silent.

Even in those days when he did not know much about the world, he has already heard about magicians.

Own magicians body did not differ special force, and from the standpoint of the saboteurs were not dangerous babies. But when it came to power, they were able to manipulate, magicians ahead saboteurs literally an order of magnitude. If you give a big magician Gundo and enough fuel, he could single-handedly destroy the whole castle to the ground. The more spells and magical diagrams are superimposed on each other, the more thin and strong is their magic.

If we compare only one destructive power, the saboteurs and the soles were not good magicians.

But, of course … in the battle against the magician saboteur first triumphed 8-9 in bouts of 10.

This can hardly be called battles. Learning that is fighting against the magician, spy for nothing would not attack head-on, and tried

to kill the magician before he finishes the read-consuming spell of time.

But … Hasumin just been talking not about who will fight anyone.

And it is not about who has the most power.

Thor knew it, and it therefore does not understand.

If so, then why are afraid of spies?

– Probably, the thing felt.

– Feelings?

– Or in the mood.

– What are you …? – Toru asked, frowning.

He did not understand. What say Hasumin?

– Saboteurs in fact ready to do anything to accomplish their goals, right?

Sowing doubt rhetoric. Coming up with a cunning plan and do the unthinkable. Taking hostages, betray, lie, and much more than they deserved glory despicable and dishonest people. They could unabashedly commit such at that adequate person for what would be decided not so simple.

– Because we saboteurs, – not without pride, said Toru.

He taught that it is this – the foundation of life of saboteurs and the key to their power. What distinguishes them from the knights, bound by ties of honor and nobility. It is understood all countries, and that is why the demand for saboteur remained stable.

– But other so they can not. So they are afraid – Hasumin said, looking up at the sky. – Saboteurs can easily go for it. They can not feel neither shame nor remorse. Probably … people are afraid of temper, which allows them to it.

– What does it mean? – Grimly said Toru. – Is it possible that you think so, Hasumin?

Laborers battlefield. Shawky powers.

Ready to go to any baseness in order to achieve the goal. Inglourious Basterds.

Conventional wisdom about saboteurs had about that. Torah has always believed that all of these people, bound hand and foot "honor" and "justice", just secretly jealous of them and their true power.

But…

– I'm not afraid of you – with a smile replied Hasumin.

It is slightly bent and looked into her eyes sitting next to her Torah. Her eyes did not look through any anger or ridicule. They looked like eyes big sister teaches her stubborn brother. The real "big sister" in the Torah was not.

– Neither I nor the rest of the merchants. … We are aware of who you are – the people living in ACURE – confident tone Hasumin said. – We are sure that you understand. Looking at you, we began to realize that the means to live, not taking his eyes from his goal. After that we simply recognize that something we are similar, and in some ways different.

– …

Hasumin words proved too abstract for the Torah, and he did not understand them until the end.

But Hasumin kept talking as if nothing had happened. Later Thor realized that she did not try such a way to make him understand her speech. Most likely, it lacked the foresight to say these words with the future in the hope that one day the Torah understand their meaning.

– But most likely, someone else about it is pointless to ask. Perhaps even we only think we understand you and really just made a

mistake, or you tricked us ..

– We would not …

– I know. I said “maybe” – interrupted Hasumin turning to the Torah. – In the end … a belief – it is strictly a one-way thing.

– …

“One-way”. Not seeking responsiveness, understanding and empathy.

For some reason, the Torah is the word seemed terribly sad.

He felt that Hasumin words sounded ridiculous.

And to this day the Torah remembered that on that day he could not sleep.

***

When Thor woke up, it felt that he was a little hard to breathe.

Probably affects the load on the chest.

– M …

However, this burden was not at all heavy.

Thor slept with his back against the stone wall. On his chest is sleeping another person. He twitched a little in his sleep, redistributing weight. Apparently, this caused the severity of the Torah breathing.

– …

He looked down a bit and saw a silver hair.

This girl looked as low as before … or rather, it seemed that she did not grew from the date of the meeting.Maybe this is some feature of the body, maybe the disease. Samu it was more concerned not increase, and stubbornly refuses to grow breasts … but the Torah, in turn, did not care.

Gull.

On hands and feet sitting in the lotus position Toru Princess curled up dead country. She was so smoothly, as if to say that it is the place. Her appearance resembled a kitten or a puppy, who found a favorite place on the body of its owner – under his arm, the neck or the shoulder – and comfortably ensconced there.

Right now they are in the midst of a huge maze.

– A…

Head for some reason refused to work.

What is this place … where are they?

– This is…

Thor shook his head a couple of times, banishing sleep.

His mind began to clear, and yet he felt as it is filled with an understanding of where they are, and the memory of how they got here.

– Oh, yes … it's …

Ruins of an old abandoned castle.

Inside the fortress, built during the war, often detected labyrinths started to sample during the siege army was not able to quickly seize the premises. The corridors were built narrow and winding, and the room walls were laid out strong refractory stones, so as not to allow the enemy to break through them.

Even more solid fortress and supplied all sorts of traps to attack from top to bottom – from the rain of arrows, boiling oil … often prepared some traps. Tohru looked up and noticed immediately on the opposite wall a few loopholes, have done just that purpose.

Yes, they were not in the room and in the hallway.

Not the best place to sleep.

But…

– …

Thor looked at the thing Gull cuddle.

Long, hard and cold “magic stick” – a favorite Gundo Gulls. It looked old, but hard to do, and the Torah had never seen, that it broke. Of course, for this surely ought to thank that gull regularly disassembled and carefully looked after him.

Gundo work by emitting a low hum.

Let Seagull and slept, her spell is still in effect.

I think it was called “The Guardian.” It refers to the type of protective magic and fundamentally no different from similar, for example, “hard shell” and “Blue Tomb.

It included it every time they went to bed, and the Torah had already become accustomed to this spell.Range was quite small, and so they had to huddle to one another. But in addition to protection against bladed weapons this barrier protected from almost all spells that could apply one magician.

Even in sleep Torah superb enemies, but he can not afford to find a magician, a healing in it from a distance.Therefore, it spells is a necessary component of life, which they spent in the pursuit and on the run.

– Seagull.

– …

He quietly called her name, and srebrovlasaya girl nervously fumbled.

It seems that it is still dozing and moving, almost without regaining consciousness.

– Seagull.

He called her again, but she did not wake up again, and jerked a couple of times.

Tohru smiled softly and gently ran his hands over her silky silver hair. Gently pushing them, he found a small pale ear, held it to his lips and …

– Seagull !!!

– Fgë ?!

Seagull started so abruptly, as if it was struck by lightning.

Such a resounding voice in his ear, in addition to the bite could even awaken the dormouse. After a couple of seizures Seagull jumped like erectile spring.

Toru had to quickly pull away, so as not to hit his jaw on her shoulder.

– Thor … – Seagull turned to him.

Her charming doll's face, too, has not changed since their first meeting. Now it looks around the Torah with some dissatisfaction.

– Good morning – she greeted her the Torah, raising his hand. – I see you slept well.

– … The most troubling problem – sulkily replied Seagull. – Awakening. It requires review.

– Revision? What are you talking about? – With a smile I asked the Torah.

Magical barrier does not negate the fact that they were on the run and were able to immediately wake up and break away from the place. But no big words, no shaking could not wake the sleeping soundly Seagull.Therefore, the Torah switched to a pretty tough way to wake her, which has recently enjoyed the time.

Apparently, he was not satisfied with Seagull.

– Needs to improve!

– A? Well, as I then wake you?

– Um …

Seagull folded her arms and bowed her head.

It looks like his plan, she had not really. She shook her head rhythmically, as if trying to shake the idea out of his brain, and then …

– Whisper. An ear. Almost touching. Gently. Vote. Caressing … – started talking seagull with a dreamy look.

– You is not wake up.

– The Torah. Impatient – Seagull replied, raising his finger. – Listen … to the end. The above is the first step.Then the second stage.

– Even the stage? Wow.

– Gently. Soft. Cheek – assiduously ignoring the stronger crushes the Torah, Seagull some embarrassment continued. – It is necessary. The ceremony of awakening.

– Ceremony? What other ceremony?

– Cheek … or … just … lips …

Seagull's voice grew quieter, and her pale cheeks – all red.

Thor frowned and asked:

– Cheek? Ah, understand, I want to I'm not the ear and cheek biting?

– Failure! – Seagull snapped, sulkily.

Not only its appearance but also all the gestures were quite childish and did not change. Torah sometimes doubted how much she actually years – perhaps Seagull itself this is not exactly known due to the failure of the memory.

– The Torah. Monster. Bite – Seagull with displeasure pointed a finger at him. – Savage. Bad Influence Frederica.

– Savage, then? Well, – I nodded Torah flourish. – So be it. I like it even somewhat flattered. And if I am a monster, then let's try method available only monsters.

– M?

– I've got a needle, – said the Torah, out of his pocket an iron needle and demonstrating its Seagull. – It can stick under the nail.

– Refusal, rebuff, sverhotkaz! – Seagull cried, stamping his feet.

– I think of it you just wake up.

– Torture is prohibited.

– No, I'm not going to extort anything, so it's not torture.

– Martyrdom prohibited.

– So then even traces will remain, – the Torah said, putting the needle back.

– Severe life – Chaika said, exhaling and dropping shoulders.

– These are my words … – reflexively I answered the Torah, but …
– … Though, probably not.

Then he looked at the long black box that was lying next to them.

…Coffin.

Maybe Seagull and kept him constantly … but it was all for it, and was always in sight and within arm's reach.Inside, hiding not only her belongings, but also, above all, those "remains", she persistently sought.

Parts of the corpse of her father, the Emperor of the Damned Arthur Gaza, which is divided into parts, "eight characters".

– M? – Seagull stared at Thor.

Apparently, she did not understand the meaning of his whisper.

– Although it is not. The end is now not seem far off – the Torah said, pointing to the coffin.

– …I see.

– You're … three.

In fact, they have already collected … 14 fragments.

Initially, the emperor remains divided into 8 parts, but then some of them butchered once again, and as a result the Torah and Seagull have to look for 17 fragments – twice the original number. Moreover, in the process of cutting some people inexplicably provided themselves with counterfeits and fakes, which do not just once or twice across the Torah during their travels.

Long way. Very long.

But soon their journey to collect "remains" will come to an end.

Remaining 3 fragments, and they knew where to find them.

More precisely, they knew who owned them.

– However, these 3 will take us a lot of hassle.

Tohru sighed.

"Lots of trouble" … this expression up close and does not describe reality.

On these remains can be said without exaggeration that produce them will be "impossible".

The last three fragments were in Alberic Gillette.

In Alberic it was already 9 henchmen. Half of his first group died, but he was appointed twice as many people.And besides, behind Alberic, unlike the Torah, there was an entire organization. And the people and the equipment they had in abundance.

Torah and Seagull resisted them only two.

Akari … was no more.

As for Frederick, then one day it was gone, and the more they have not seen her. Apparently, they had hoped in vain that feil be able to understand the thoughts and motivations of people.

Simply put, the opponents had a five-fold numerical superiority.

Moreover, opponents used the resources of the organization, and the three “fragment” from their point of view served as “bait” to which they caught the Torah and The Seagull. We can say, Gillette squad did not hide the fact that the latter are the remains of theirs, just because they had no doubts in his victory.

Torah and Seagull penetrated into the palace in the pursuit of Alberic.

They were able to meet with him at any time.

So, there was a considerable chance that here the journey will end.

– But … because our enemy is so strong, we need a good night’s rest, eat well and carefully prepared, – muttered the Torah.

– The Torah. I could sleep? – A sympathetic view of Gull asked him.

– Yes. I saw … a dream of the past.

– About the past?

– I do not even remember how many years ago it happened. I dreamed it … we fought against Alberic detachment from “the valley, from which no one returns,” that near Rademio.

– …

His face darkened gulls.

The case forever cast a shadow on their squad.

Because of what happened during the battle landslide killed Akari.

– Thor …

– But it was just a dream, now it does not matter – the Torah abruptly closed the subject, and got to his feet.

He was happy that the Seagull is also mourning the death of Akari … but he has no plans to drive her into despair.

– In a sense, it is even convenient.

– Conveniently?

– After all, they have collected as many as three pieces for us. If you'll end detachment Alberic – all 3 stroke and pick.

– … I agree – Chaika said with a smile. – The Torah.

And then, as if she were something suddenly occurred to me … Seagull leaned against the wall near his Gundo and held out her hands to the Torah.

Her pale fingers lay on his cheeks.

– M …

Seagull asked if Thor bow … rather, it is almost a force pulled her to him. Without becoming resist Torah ducked and let Seagull finish the job.

Seagull little stretched, and then joined his lips with his.

– …

– …

Time passed slowly, dense flow.

When Seagull finally let go of his lips, she smiled sheepishly.

– Thank you. Sign … thanks.

– Seagull …

Tohru blinked and looked at srebrovlasuyu girl.

They were kissing was not the first time … but the Seagull has always made it so surprising that the Torah like often confused. She herself greatly embarrassed and always coming up with them all sorts of “justification” … At this time, “a sign of gratitude.”

Tohru smiled slightly and said:

– You’re done it as my mistress? Or…

– Both.

Mistress and servant. Man and woman.

It would not be wrong to say that the relationship between the Torah and the Chaika belonged to both types.

By the way, and when they do the first time kissed?

Thor went on this trip for the Seagulls … but first he was led forward only empathy and a sense of duty. And for the saboteur it was enough to risk their lives.

But that did not mean that he could not appear other reasons.

After Akari it was not, and they began to travel together … only in relations Torah and Gulls naturally has another face.

They both wanted the distance between them was reduced to a minimum.

Initially this was due to a desire to somehow cope with anxiety by the fact that they wandered in a world in which there was no place for them a safe haven … But there is nothing wrong in the fact that over time, it has turned into love.

Torah has always considered that the reasons give strength.

Debt. Sympathy. Empathy. And love.

– What. Come on … my lady. Nearing the moment of truth.

– Agree – with a smile she said, Seagull and hoisted the coffin on his back.

***

Inside the barrier “Guardian” heavy silence reigned.

– …

– …

Amazement and confusion of the two girls deprived of speech.

Before their eyes unfolded something so incredible … that they could do nothing but to silently look at it wide-eyed. “The Guardian” – a powerful protective spell, but you can not move together with the barrier. Therefore, they could only look on as hard as it may be.

And finally …

– Seagull – quietly murmured Akari. – What is it?..

– Um … – he held that, frowning. – Love scene?

– Uh-huh. It seems – Akari awkwardly nodded.

Generally speaking, in an event that was not a passionate exchange of feelings inherent in “love scene” … and if you talk straight, and on bed rest, this scene is not pulled. That’s just inside the barrier there was no man who could calmly say so.

– I knew it … – Akari slowly stood up and turned to the Seagull. – What move to eliminate the need was much earlier …

Akari bent fingers on both hands, because of what they looked like claws, ready at any moment to strangle his goal, and then stepped up to the Seagull. Her face, by the way, as always, did not express any emotion, but that its full of anger, it was clear and without it.

– Akari.

– What?

– I beg. Calm.

– I'm always calm, – said Akari neutral voice. – I quietly decided that if you finished off early, you do not have time to ohmurit my brother.

– Akari, Akari. I'm here.

– Uh-huh. I only now realize how lucky I am that you are always there – you so much easier to kill.

– There. Other … I.

Chaika pointed the finger of a translucent barrier. On the other hand it was a few stone walls. Robust, powerful fortifications. They were standing so that resembled a corridor, which served as one of the protective boundaries of the old castle.

And this wall … there was a small crack.

So small that a person would not climbed into it – it allowed a peek at what is happening on the other side of the wall.

Torah. And another gull.

Appearance. Character. Clothing. Everything is exactly the same.

A replica of how one looks.

But … if there is, next to the Torah – Seagull, then who is the gull that is located inside the barrier? Is this a twin sister?

In other words…

– Hmm – Akari put her hands on the shoulders of Seagulls – Of course, from the beginning I knew it.

– …

Seagull looking at her askance, as if trying to say something.

But impenetrable expression facial Akari easily reflected this view. Bowing her head, she continued:

– Still, it's strange. This again focuses of the formless lizard?

Akari looked back through the gap in the Torah and another Seagull.

They seem to be about something talk.

– Frederick? M?

Indeed, a few days ago, at the hot springs, Frederick became a Seagull … rather, attacked the Torah under the guise of Seagulls. Anyway, Frederick was the only familiar Torah capable of quickly and accurately turn in The Seagull.

But…

– Do not attack.

– And this is also true …

Frederick would not miss the opportunity to attack him.

It is difficult to say whether she would really kill him, but, in any case, it is hardly the reason so to flirt with him in the image of seagulls. If she had been waiting for his chance, then it is no need to do anything – the Torah is now already open to attack from all sides.

And what's more …

– Something my brother … says very strange things.

What they left "three pieces".

What after the event at the "valley from which no one returns," it's been a few years.

– So maybe it is – a fake, and not my brother? But…

But why these fake played a show here, where no one would see?

By the way, where they all were?

They are faced with a group of Gillette. Then Frederica intervention triggered a landslide. As a result, Seagull, Akari, Torah … and, most of all, a few people from the detachment of Gillette fell into the valley.

And then Seagull adopted prearranged “Guardian” spell. Thor asked her to prepare a combat magic, but Chaika decided that too great a chance that it just hurt them in battle, and decided instead to protect themselves, to give them the opportunity to fight, do not worry about it.

Perhaps it was the right decision.

At the time of the landslide Akari was very close and was able to penetrate the barrier, but is a bit further to protect the Torah was impossible. Seagull miraculously unfolded barrier just before the landing and continued to support him, so she and Akari were safe, but …

When they came to their senses, we realized that the place in which they found themselves, quite unlike the valley floor.

Does anyone built a castle on the valley floor to strengthen?

But on the other hand, it seemed too unnatural … how could they fall off a cliff, and then suddenly be indoors? After all, this castle was the ceiling. And no matter how carefully they are peering into it, no holes are.

– Well if only the place is fine if only the behavior of my brother, will you be just this outrageous Seagull, but in general there is too much does not converge. I do not know what kind of a maze, and how it is made, but we must immediately get to my brother and bring him to his senses – Akari turned to Chaika and continued, – Call off the barrier. Let us and the separation wall, but maybe I can run round it and get to her brother.

– Um …

But Seagull thinking about something else and withdraw the

“Guardian” in no hurry.

– What is it, Gull?

– …Maybe. Magic.

– Magic ..?

– Illusory, mind control, multiple effects. Magic – Chaika said, pointing to his Gundo. – I and Akari. The “Guardian” zone.

– You mean the manipulation of consciousness does not work for us?

– Um – Seagull nodded. – Matter. Wednesday. Intervention in the psyche.

The atomized mist to a level of material easily penetrate into the body.

Chaika explained that it is enough to touch the parts of the body with a lot of nerves – eyes, nose, tongue, or so forth, and be able to earn a spell subordination of consciousness.

– But if our minds are not manipulated – Akari said, pointing to a gap in the wall – that’s why we also see a “fake”?

– Matter.

– …It? Also it?

– Probably. People. Walls. Ceiling. All – Seagull finger gestured all around you. – All the matter.

– You mean … all that surrounds us, including people who are just stage scenery?

– Mmm. Maybe. Large Gundo and a strong source.

– Hmm … – handed frowned Akari. – But if this is true, then why all this ..?

There was a lot of much more simple ways to get rid of the

intruders on its territory. For Scania Simon did not anyhow who, as a hero. He had to get away from their country almost unlimited rights. Splurge by magic there is no need.

Or all of the equipment to build this grand illusion is not ruled Scania Simon?

But in any case it remains a different question – which sought the magician?

– Whatever it was … – he continued Akari slightly irritated voice that had happened to her very often. – We can not just leave my brother. Call off the barrier, Gull.

– Getting. Under mind control. We. As the Torah.

– Um …

If you withdraw the “Guardian”, the seagull and Akari come into contact with the fog of the matter. Because of this, they could really get under the control of the same mind as the Torah.

– And if you hold your breath .. No, it does not help?.

Akari shook her head.

Even saboteurs with their perfected bodies are not able to operate for a long time to hold your breath.

Given the fact that they need to run through the maze to get to the Torah, to rescue him from captivity illusion or belief, or stunned, and then return to the same place … without any chance of breathing.

– It turns out, we have no choice but to look at?

– The Torah. Come. Briefly … revoke – Chaika said.

Apparently, if the Torah itself came to him, she was able to briefly recall “Guardian”, and then apply it again to the Torah, too, I was under the barrier. Like many individual wards, “Guardian” can not be moved. Seagull and Akari could not move the barrier closer to

the Torah.

– But the wall …

Although they saw the Torah through the crack, the wall still separated them. Unfortunately, the chances that the Torah suddenly pass through the maze to the seagulls and Akari, very small.

– Matter – Chaika said, pointing to the wall. – Partially. Temporarily. But disturbing you control.

– … In other words, this wall may disappear or at some time or partly disappear?

– Mmm. This gap. Gaps in the spell – Chaika pointed to the through slit in the wall.

All this is meant here is that: the wall was actually the same as the haze that filled the valley, but that magic is forced to maintain a different shape. It seems that created Chaika “Guardian” are complicated to maintain the spell of this wall, and as a result unnerved control has led to a gap in the wall.

Lost contact with the wall spell again appealed to the fog.

To sum up, the little slit in fact turned out to be the result of being deployed near the wall “Custodian” dispelled a small part of matter.

– The best opportunity. Carefully wait.

Once the Torah approach to them close enough Seagull cancel the “Guardian”.

The next moment, she immediately apply any strong spell that will interfere with the work of magic, controlling matter … in other words, try to interrupt her control. It should be temporarily dispel the wall.

Following this Akari pops up, grab the Torah and immediately return to the Seagull, which again will deploy “Guardian.”

That was the plan of salvation Torah proposed Chaika.

– Basically, I understand, but still … – Akari clenched her fists. – So, I can only bite your elbows and wait for a chance to save him? And look at how Toru flirts with seagulls? ..

Neither the person nor her voice did not differ from the usual, but little fists shaking … she obviously could not digest the scene with a kiss that just saw.

– Forgetting about me, my sister …

– …

Perhaps Seagull would like to point Akari, that the word “sister” in her understanding bore an entirely different meaning than that of ordinary people, but she knew also that if you do this, then the next moment to get acquainted with a hammer Akari so close her brain spilled out of his ears.

– My brother … … doing things with seagulls Seagull with … … and more than that, to all appearances, they are … with seagulls … and can go even further … and so I need as soon as possible …

– F … fake fake – Seagull responded flushed, realizing that murmur Akari regains dangerous sound.

However, even if it was fake, kind of how the Torah came into such an intimate relationship with its exact replica, filled the Seagull complex emotions.

– And in general, why this illusion is not me?

– M …?

– If I was next to him, then nothing would prevent such – Akari said, clutching her favorite hammer. – Even at death, even related and suspended from the ceiling, I will keep the honor of his brother.

– …

Fortunately, Seagull was not stupid enough to answer this phrase with the words “that’s why you got there and was not there.”

***

It is difficult to say exactly how much they have passed.

From infinitely winding corridors of the castle, which almost did not see the sun, I lost a sense of not only space, but time. Torah could not shake the feeling that they are constantly walking the same places.

“Something I have …”

His head seemed heavier than usual.

Can I say to the accumulated fatigue may have influenced wandering in a maze, but he could not have anything to think seriously. Surface thoughts and movements do not hurt … but deep or abstract thought he did not given.

Even the attempt to understand the causes of the whole body rolls severity.

– Oh yes … we need to prepare the trap – suddenly had the idea of the Torah.

– Trap? .. – Repeated on the fly Seagull.

– Yes. I want as much as possible to ease detachment of Gillette.

The fact that they were in the narrow labyrinth, had its advantages.

And given the fact that the Torah unit was in the minority, they turned out even more than the minuses. They can not surround, and even if the enemies attacked from both sides, they would be able to withstand such an attack together. Furthermore, in such a situation is difficult to avoid the traps installed. If you use them to be able to weaken the enemy – it will be perfect, but even if they find the trap, then at their disposal will have to spend precious time and energy.

– In short, it is best if we can lure and catch this harmful Alberic.

– Sorry, but this will not happen.

The answer to the muttering Torah … did not come from going ahead Seagulls and rear.

– …

Thor took a deep breath.

Nervous and turning, he would only give the enemy a chance. It tried to make the seagull, but he stopped her, grasping the shoulder, and then slowly and carefully unfolded.

In the depths of a narrow corridor through which a detachment of the Torah was …

Near the turn was the most “harmful” enemy – Alberic Gillette.

Seagull … Like he has not changed since the time of their first meeting.

His annoyingly preppy look, as if to shout about the fact that this man never fell before to get dirty, crawling along the ground, remained the same. Whenever the Torah saw this cold-blooded expression on his face, he wanted to make him writhing in anger or hatred.

But this well-bred young man can not be considered just a cute doll.

Even “Zheleznokrovie” could not guarantee victory.

The difference in their abilities was huge. Too huge.

Knights – hereditary warriors, generated by the war.

Of course, in the passive phase and the last days of the war it appeared many knights who were of knightly name only – they do not know how to fight and had no experience. But always there were also those whose combat skills zealously brought the whole clan.

And Alberic Gillette does not just apply to them – it was truly a masterpiece, imbibe more than one hundred years passed from generation to generation of knightly skills.

– What has caught up with us? – Toru said, holding his hands to komboklinkam.

– Rather, “finally” – quietly replied Alberic.

Behind him could be seen 5 subordinates. Given the fact that now under his command were 9 people, somewhere must be even 4. Either they went to look for the Torah and Seagull separately from Gillette … or came from the other side to take them in a vise.

– I’m just amazed …

Alberic shook his head.

A gesture that seemed pretentious and artificial.

– … Your stubbornness.

– True?

– And that only makes you try so hard for this … Seagull Gas? – Alberic’s eyes narrowed.

Thor stepped forward, closing the Seagull by piercing and even oppressive knight sight.

– This is my decision. Do not come to us.

– That I can not, – said Alberic, and for a moment his fine facial features twisted. – I have to take revenge on the killers Vivi and Zita.

– …

Thor did not answer.

By the way, yes, two girls, assassin and mage near Alberico was not.

Why?..

“Ah, yes … sure …”

Supernatants nowhere memories clarified the situation.

They were dead.

I do not kill them the Torah?

This is war. Alberic himself once said about the Torah – a small, but still a bloody war. A saboteurs hardly be suspected of pity for the enemy on the battlefield, even if we are talking about girls.

So Alberic pursued the Torah is not only out of a sense of duty?

When a person loses someone dear to him, over time accumulating sorrow transformed it into anger. And vent the anger on someone – a way to keep some part of his soul wither.

Thor knew about it firsthand.

Hasumin. Akari.

He suffered his grief precisely because it turned to hatred against "enemies."

But the Torah took power in order to live, not only from this source.

… He lived to fulfill the dream of Seagulls.

– Of course, I would like to fight with you in a fair fight, and put you on your knees, but … – suddenly Alberic said.

By the way … all this time he did not even tried to take up his sword.

– What? Mr. Knight has decided to change tactics?

– Yes. I decided that instead of harm's friends, I have to make another choice, that he and I do not really like.

Alberic's expression changed.

He scoffed at whether the Torah … whether looking at him with pity.

His eyes could see the impenetrable darkness.

“Does not look like it on him” – the Torah had time to think, seeing in them the very same feelings that he, like, wanted to see it all the time. And here…

– Torah – heard a whisper behind him.

And with that … something pierced his side.

– … Eh?

Even the Torah itself seemed that his cry sounded silly.

First and foremost, he felt no pain and fever, and uncertainty.

– What … is … – but he was able to reach looking at sticking out of the sides of a throwing knife.

Alberic We do not have people using such weapons.

In general, these weapons are saboteurs, like the Torah.

And now, without Akari, next to the Torah were not people with the knives except seagulls, which he gave to a few self-defense …

– … Seagull?

The air seemed silvery hair.

Toru dumbfounded looked at running past him Man.

He knew by heart her profile. He knew by heart her hair. All of them belonged to the mistress of the Torah, which he repeatedly kissed, and they traveled together, helping each other constantly.

Seagull ran from him.

The coffin, which she always dragged back, momentarily hid her body from the Torah.

– Hey, you…

– The Torah. Can not. Return the remains, – said the owner of the tomb in his normal voice.

Thor did not see that it is an expression of her face.

– So … the deal.

– …What? – Thor dropped, falling to his knees.

Only now he felt a sharp pain in his wound.

Deep. It seems that even the organs affected.

Thor tried to stretch muscles to relieve bleeding … but it turned out badly. The moral exhaustion as fast spread through his mind, if it is, rather than blood oozed from the wound.

– Short – Alberic said icily, his eyes fixed on the Torah. – We made a deal. From … Seagull Gas.

– What?..

He did not understand.

Deal. Seagulls and Alberic?

What could be the point of …

– Seagull Gas wants to finish the collection “remains.” But alone you can not kill us all and take away the missing pieces – confidently continued Alberic. – On the other hand, the Torah ACURE, the most important of my desires – kill you to avenge Vivi and Zita. Here on these grounds, and we agreed to “exchange”.

Alberic nodded Chaika, has already had time to run to him.

– I give her the remaining three pieces of … – Alberic openly handed Seagull three vessels with the “remains” that the Torah could see everything. – A gull losing you to me.

– Seagull … – Thor said, holding a hand wound. – Hey … it’s not

funny …

“It’s even dangerous. Immediately go back. “

He could not even finish his sentence.

– Torah – Seagull turned to him. – I told at the beginning, is not it?

Somehow, she switched to the northern language.

Perhaps she made it to the Torah it is easier to understand (and perhaps its purpose was darker – that he could not understand it does not), but in any case, her speech became much more accentuated, with pauses between words.

– My main goal – to collect all the remains of his father. I just chose the surest way to achieve it.

Select “remains” in Alberic on a par with the Torah.

Or pass the Torah Alberic and get the “remains” in exchange.

Clearly, some of the easier options.

– Seagull. You…

Then what about those smiles? What about all these kisses?

Are all of them were only in order to make the Torah act like it comfortable? ..

– …

The realization that the works were in vain, felt as if his body rotted alive.

All men betray.

He knew about it. Everybody knows about it.

Then why … why they look at their loved one and think “but not this” and “This man will not betray me?” And why are looking for that base to check that tops are nonsense?

Kissing?

Living under the same roof?

Battle shoulder to shoulder?

Bodily intimacy?

Verbal oath?

“Do you think they ever mean something?”

No matter how many words they are saying to each other, no matter how many feelings shared, no matter how much was carried out next to each other time, nothing could guarantee that one will not betray the other.Between all of these things and betrayal there is no connection.

Some might say that these actions “affect the senses.”

But “feelings” and “soul” are not just intangible, people still can not agree in opinion as to what these words mean. Is an attempt to solve that betrayal “unthinkable” on the basis alone of these things – not banal stupidity?

“Faith” – the top of irrationality.

Somewhere in the back of his mind Toru heard someone whisper.

Similar to Hasumin. Similar to Akari. Similar to Dominica. Like a Seagull.

Similar to all of them … and at the same time someone else.

“No matter how well you may be treated to their partner, when presented with a choice between him and either his life or performing an important mission, the logical solution would be to leave him.”

Someone spoke to him in a voice as if telling something quite obvious.

Do let some little things distract themselves from the true goal – not stupidity?

So, the choice is obvious and true.

Betrayal – a natural solution.

Remember this. When you talk with other people – under their smiles hide sprouts of betrayal. It is an inseparable part of human relationships, and the one who has lived all his life without knowing the betrayal, or wonderfully lucky or stupid enough not to realize that he had been betrayed.

Suspects. Suspects. Suspects.

If you are a parent – I suspect their children. If you're a man – women suspects. If you are a husband – wife of the suspect. If you are a friend – friends of the suspect. If you are a pupil – teacher suspects. If you are the chief – is suspected subordinates.

You never know when you will betray.

Therefore…

– Seagull …

Feeling as isolated in his own despair, Toru said her name.

The name of the girl, for the sake of a dream that he was ready to sacrifice everything.

– I'm sorry, the Torah – she replied with a smile. – But there is no alternative. I certainly must collect all the "relics", you know?

Her face was not a hint of malice.

It is pronounced like something obvious …

– …

So, it's obvious?

So the Torah "faith" simply for their stupidity?

Betrayed did not feel remorse.

She did not consider his betrayal something wrong.

That's all that is praiseworthy "trust" …

– Seagull … – continuing to hold on to his side, Tohru met with all his forces. – "I have steel …"

He never took his eyes … Seagulls spitting blood and words.

***

Breathless and monitor what is happening girl almost jumped up.

– Brother ?!

– Torah ..!

It is noticed not only Akari, and Seagull.

Torah reading keywords "Zheleznokroviya" bowed his head. He has repeatedly used this technique in front of Gulls. The voice that uttered these words sounded very strange, long time stamping in the mind of the listener.

Doubts could not be. Thor was going to fight. And in a life-and-death.

Use "Zheleznokrovie", having a deep wound is very dangerous. Yes, it has doubled the body possible, but inevitably increased and its needs, which led to an acceleration of blood circulation and increase blood pressure. As a result, amplified and bleeding, and it can quickly lead to death from loss of blood.

– Torah .. – Seagull shouted again, but her voice is only reflected from the wall of "Guardian".

On the surface of the blue ripple ran through the barrier, but it most likely came from the fact that the Seagull trembled and trembled with her Gundo that she held in her hands.

Both of them knew – this is just fiction.

But … to what extent?

What about Alberic and his people – they are just inventions, like Seagull?

Or are people just like the Torah, land in this illusion?

And what about the injured Toru?

Is the blade pierced him?

Or, and this – just a vision, created with the matter?

– Ki … – Akari bit her lip.

For such an emotionless girl it was extremely rare reaction, clearly shows the degree of irritation and impatience. Do not understand what is happening people have thought that they just blankly look at how the kill Thor.

Naturally, they can at any time withdraw the “Guardian” and rush forward.

But … they did not know how fast these inventions dominate human consciousness.

If Akari recklessly rushed to the aid of the Torah itself was under control, it would only exacerbate the situation. Anyway, hope that the rest alone and does not have outstanding power seagull can save them, it was not necessary.

– Akari – muffled Chaika said, continuing to look into the slot. – The Torah. … Go here.

– ..

Akari’s eyes narrowed.

How to Gull and said Toru walked slowly toward them, whispering the word “key”.

He walked with a terribly indifferent face, holding his wounded side, and with the tips of his fingers dripping blood.

It is unlikely that he was trying to “escape” in their direction.

Fictions clutched in his mind so hard that he was not supposed to even see this Akari and Seagull. He looked only illusory Seagull and detachment Alberic.

No. Even without them …

– Wall ..!

The outlines of the stone walls trembled.

And in the next instant and obstacle between this fictional Chaika dissipated. Wall really was a matter of fog.

– Seagull?

– …No.

Akari turned to her, but Gull shook her head.

Wall has disappeared not because of it.

And that means …

– Brother …

Akari would like to say “stop”, but the words got up from her throat.

Proposed Seagull unraveling situation plan – open the “Guardian”, the Torah, and let him move on “their side” – demanded just such a chance. Just to Torah approached them.

– But … Seagull – Akari turned back to her. – Brother in fact convinced that you betrayed him. And when you consider the location of the illusions … and missing walls may be part of the plan Scania Simon …

– …

Seagull silent frowning.

Torah. Illusive Seagull. This Seagull.

They all lie on one line.

If the Torah tries to attack false Seagull, the impact force can be enough for that and got a real arm.

Thor was under the influence of “Zheleznokroviya”.

It makes no sense even to compare its current strength with what it was before. Not to mention the fact that protection against such an attack is extremely difficult if he attacks with fury doomed, even without thinking about the possible need for a second strike, this is truly a fatal blow will be dealt to the upswing, which will not predict the moment of impact. Or Torah may try to throw his blade.

The threat represented by both.

Naturally, within the “Guardian” and the Seagull, and Akari were safe. But this barrier deprived of their only chance to escape from the power of the Torah fiction.

No. Not only this. If the Torah real wound, if it does not immediately engage in …

It turns out that the Torah will die if they do not withdraw “the Guardian”.

– So … – I whispered Akari. – … What is the true essence of the “valley from which no one returns …”

This valley – full of anger “trap”.

Whether not therefore here no one is returned, that each calling here, without knowing it, fell under the power of myths and dying? ..

Extended at the last moment, “The Guardian” has protected them from loss of reason, but if their minds are absorbed inventions and visions, for example, the scene of their betraying the Torah … and

then they would lose their reason and attack of the Torah standing near them.

– How vile! ..

It would seem that there are lots of much more simple methods to deal with uninvited guests.

Instead, he ridiculed the confidence of the people and made them kill each other.

What is this if not a mere anger?

– Brother …

Akari still some time looking at pronounces the word “Zheleznokroviya” Torah.

For the implementation of this goal saboteurs spared neither their lives nor the lives of others.

And they were proud of it.

That’s because they set goals above all else, saboteurs scolded, called the dogs, and they, in spite of its active participation in fights, carrying out the dirty work, never received the glory that others.

Conversely, for those people that put performance of duty above all, failure is caused by emotions or compassion, meant indelible shame and stigma of “useless” saboteur.

And, when you consider this and think about what is happening with the Torah position subjected Seagull danger for him was the most recent case. If you strictly follow the principles of saboteurs, the Akari could save the honor of the Torah only giving him die, thus protecting Seagull.

– Thor … – Seagull nervously called him, looking at the way it draws from its sheath komboklinki.

Surely she, too, doubted. But the time for a thorough consideration

of possible options anymore.

And then…

***

“Zheleznokrovie” began to operate as soon as he finished reading “key”.

He immediately felt the heart beat twice as fast, as if the muscles erupted.

Accelerated thoughts … and body sensations, on the contrary, blunted.

It turned into a living weapon.

Komboklinki were already in his hands.

Of course, from a wound in his side immediately spurted blood again. Though strengthen the muscles and tried to flatten it, to increase the pressure clearly defeated. No time. Time is ridiculously small. We need to hurry.

“Gull…”

Thor stepped forward, staring at the girl who betrayed him.

The sharp jump, which creaked the floor of the castle, the landing. Second. The third. Fourth. And every next – faster than the previous.

The faster he moved, the more narrows the field of view.

At its center stood bewildered seagull.

Faster. Faster. Faster.

The world has narrowed to only srebrovlasoy girl on which the Torah focused all their attention.

But then …

– Toru ACURE!

there was purple shadow on the way rushing forward Torah.

Alberic Gillette.

Knight unparalleled talent, able to fight on equal terms, even against the “Zheleznokroviya”.

Perhaps he was trying to protect Seagull. Or maybe he decided that now is the time to avenge the death of his subordinates about what he had just said and.

In any case, now it was just before the Torah with a sword in his hand and looked impregnable. The enemy is so strong that you can not even say, would be possible to kill him with my life. In addition, the wounded Torah there is no certainty that it will be able to fight at full strength.

But he could not stop. Stop means death.

And if so …

Chapter 4

When a person is on the verge of death before his eyes sweeping all life lived.

Thor did not know what exactly was the point of this.

Nostalgia? Regret? Repentance? Or self-gratification?

Or maybe … it's just fragments of memories that pop up in the minds of clouding the proximity of death, and in fact meaningless. Just as the life and death of a person – a phenomenon in which there is not much sense …

"In the end … a belief – it is strictly a one-way thing."

Under the "Zheleznokroviem", with whom he reached an extraordinary tension and concentration, along with a feeling of slowly trailing time, the Torah suddenly remembered the words of a very distant past.

Words that told him Hasumin.

Thor did not know why suddenly the memories that would normally never occurred to him, suddenly surfaced in such a crucial moment. Perhaps his subconscious has found some cause to remember them, or maybe it was a simple accident.

However, for the chance it is already too much.

It seems that in the unconscious, he still realized.

Those words that she said to him at that time, and that he remembered to once understand their meaning, just waiting for that moment.

His betrayal.

And for this it was necessary that he believed.

What is the meaning, what is the meaning of this?

“Then I do not understand the meaning of the phrase Hasumin …”

He was too young.

Too little knowledge of the world.

But…

“Yeah. So that’s it. “

He realized, albeit vaguely.

“Vera”. What a beautiful word.

But is not beautiful too? Does it deviated from its original meaning?

“But I believe you!” – Shouts most dedicated individuals.

But … what is the essence of the action, which is called “faith”?

Is not it strange that faith involves laying the blame for the failure on the object of faith, not of the subject? Is not there a sense that the word “faith” is only decorated with expectations from anyone, and at the same time that someone can accompany responsible?

Who is the man that believed?

Who should be responsible for what you believe in someone?

“I believe in you”. It is after these words there is no feeling that the source will not betray you?

“Because I believe in you.” Do these words not confer on him the entire responsibility for the failure?

And if so … then it’s unheard of arrogance.

“So that’s why Hasumin …”

Torah thought that the meaning of the word “faith” is not the point.

Indeed, this is a purely one-sided thing.

And that's why … do not blame someone for betraying your trust. Vera – no more than manage their feelings.Suppression of unpleasant, painful doubt in his heart and trust someone.

And so the thought and the true essence of the object did not have to do with it.

You yourself decide to believe.

You yourself are reaping the fruits of faith.

And if so, then you bear responsibility for it.

Through faith in the Torah Seagull he could escape from the senseless and purposeless life. Yes, it was dangerous, difficult way, deprived of his Akari. Yet belief in the Torah Seagull helped gain a sense of usefulness.

He was like a blade, rust-sheathed, and then get a chance to prove themselves in battle. So if he himself is not doing this for myself all the time? And if it comes to that … if not for the satisfaction of his he wanted to fulfill the dream of Seagulls?

Purely unilateral action.

Well, let. So it should be.

He decided to believe in himself.

And if so …

– Toru ACURE!

On him fell the sword Alberic.

No frills, no doubt – a blow so straightforward that pleasure to watch … and at the same time frighteningly fast.

But Thor persistently moved forward.

As he went to his death, and then concentrated so that finding the

optimal action at the speed with which could not match the speed of even chop Alberic.

Since the attack can not defend themselves, then this should not be done.

What is its purpose? Do not get hit?

No. Then why worry about what he will miss it?

Just think of this: if the blow does not hurt to fulfill the goal, then it is a victory!

– ..

At the last moment (although there is a little earlier) Alberic enemy was completely see-kick.

Thor raised his left komboklinok, taking the sword Alberic. But the power chop was so great that it knocked the Torah stiletto out of his hand, and the blade bit into his shoulder, barely changing its trajectory.

Splattered blood.

But the Torah is not stopped. He lost his left stiletto blade digging into his flesh and bone sawing. But in spite of the wild pain, Thor continued …

– Fx on … ..!

And, finally, enemy blade completely severed left arm Torah.

But let him and cried out in pain, the Torah could run past Alberic.

Loss of hand almost knocked the Torah out of balance, but it is the power stay on his feet.

And then he rushed to the Seagull.

-?!

For a moment it seemed to him as if her figure … forked.

Moreover, next to it though he flashed figure Akari.

Visual hallucinations, caused by loss of blood? Or the nostalgic memories of life flashing before your eyes?

Whatever it was, the moment the last jump. Torah could neither stop nor change its trajectory. He has not left this force.

– ..

Seagull cringed.

Naturally, her body would not have enough capacity on it to jump to dodge the Torah.

And then…

***

– Revoke the barrier! – Exclaimed sharply Akari. – Brother, I'll stop!

Akari stood near Seagull, clutching a hammer in his hand.

She was aiming not at the Torah itself, and on its komboklinok. We just need to fight off a blow, and then not so difficult. It is unlikely that the Torah will be pulled over the other weapons.

The only question is … Is Akari will be able to protect themselves from attack, in which the Torah has put all his strength.

Of course, it does not help the fact that he used "Zheleznokrovie" … but more importantly, that it is impossible to predict exactly what will blow desperate Torah.

But…

– Um …

Seagull recalled "Guardian" without hesitation.

Maybe she trusted the words of Akari. Perhaps her most disturbed state of the Torah. Maybe then, and more. Whatever it was, the Torah view that the right moment Seagull capable of tremendous

concentration, proved correct.

Concentration – The ability to make decisions based on the priorities.

And Seagull was able with confidence to do just that.

And that means …

“Now it’s my turn.”

From stress and anxiety while for Akari dragged slower than usual. She stood in front and slightly to the side of Seagulls, his eyes fixed on the approaching komboklinka Torah.

And then she lifted her hammer, that he was on the path … the expected trajectory of his blade.

Akari strained hand, ready to feel the force of impact …

-?!

… … Which turned out to be weaker, much weaker than she expected, and only slightly slid down her hammer.

It was not a hit.

At the last moment the Torah dropped their weapons. Hammer Akari touched just flying in the air without any support blade.

– Brother ?!

Slip into a thread from Akari, unarmed Torah rushed to the Seagull.

Saboteurs – do not swordsmen and knights.

In combat, they do not cling to the blades.

In other words, they can kill the enemy with his bare hands, and explosions and poison. If the Torah wanted to, he could with his bare hands wring the neck of Seagulls or blow himself up along with it by means of gunpowder, which is kept in a pocket.

Akari greatly miscalculated.

– Seagull ..!

– Hya ?!

Toru Seagull pressed to the floor, like a beast of prey – prey.

Gull exclaimed in amazement.

And then…

… There was an explosion.

– ..

Akari dumbfounded turned toward the sound.

The explosion was heard … not from the Torah, or the Seagull Akari, and a little farther.

Similarly, from the place where he stood Alberic.

Naturally, the young man was only a fake, created from matter, since he and his servants, and Seagull immediately blurred and vanished into thin air.

– What are you stupid … – there was a surprisingly soft voice.

Akari did not understand that he came from the Torah, so the tone does not fit the situation.

Gentle, caring voice.

It did not feel despair, anger, hatred and human sorrow, betrayed at the last moment.

– Where at least one proof that it will leave you alive after the completion of the transaction? Oh, you must be treated in such cases thoroughly, – said Thor, continuing to press for land and Chaika like closing her from the explosion with his body.

Rather exploded a bomb, which he threw in Alberic when bypassed

it. Torah from the beginning was not going to kill Seagull – he just wanted to destroy the bomb squad Alberic, and the very Seagull protect themselves from the shock wave.

– Surround you, so to speak, undisguised – Thor said with a tight smile, but Chaika all dumbfounded continued to look at him.

– Torah ..?

– Seagull – he said, looking at her for sure. – Thank you.

-?!

Hearing the unexpected words, Seagull's eyes widened.

Thor has not yet escaped from the illusion of power and everything should still consider it "a traitor." He hardly noticed when the real gull changed false.

– It was fun – Thor said with nostalgic view. – In any case, just a few tens of times more fun than if I rotted in that city.

– Thor …

In other words, he does not hate to betray him Seagull.

I do not feel anger towards what is his trust trampled.

– It is unfortunate that, in the end, to fulfill your wish could not be me.

– Torah Torah ..?! Torah ?!

Chaika held out her arms and grabbed the Torah cheeks.

As if he was going to go somewhere, and she tried to stop him.

– I would like finally to thank you all the same – with a smile said, the Torah, and then added, – Good-bye.

A more clear words of parting and not think.

Toru closed his eyes, about to fall helplessly to the Seagull …

– Hmph!

– GHO-on ?!

…But could not.

Looming over Chaika Torah suddenly saddled Akari grabbed his hands behind his jaw and pulled with force.

Naturally, he had nothing left but to bend almost shrimp.

– GHO-oh-oh-oh-oh ?!

– Brother! Are you okay?!

– H-ngho-oh-oh-oh ?!

– Brother! You have no pain ?!

– Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh! Right now I have a sore back wildly-ah! .. And in general …

Thor grabbed the hands of Akari and spread them apart. Erstwhile force clearly has returned to it, because after that he immediately threw his sister from the back.

But she did not resist, deftly flipped in the air and landed with ease.

– How can I be okay ?! What's gotten into you ?! – Howled Torah, rising.

– You know … – Akari raised her hand, as if about to read the oath. – Because you were ready again forced Seagull kiss on the lips, I had to stop you. I'm not out of malice.

– Why do you say that, if I keep doing this ?! I have never … ah … – Tohru blinked. – … Eh?

Thor looked at Akari with dumbfounded, looking as if his spirit has just released a demon.

– Akari? How…

– What's up, brother?

– Why are you still alive?

– …

Akari squinted at his brother … and then turned sideways and his head hanging.

– Brother … you so much want my death ..?

– Eh? Of course not. Uh-uh …

Confused Torah began to turn his head.

Taking advantage of the moment, continues to hold in the hands Gundo Seagull got out from under him, and cast a spell again deployed barrier "Guardian."

But even then …

– Is my brother hates me? .. – Dropped Akari.

And on her cheek … tears glistened.

– … Hey ?! – Here the Torah already panicked. – I … I did not say that!

– …

Akari hid her face in her hands and turned away.

And right she belonged to the often tearful girls, but most of Akari's face did not express any emotion, and it seemed even too calm. Therefore, this scene has produced a particularly strong impression.

– No, you know … … I do not say that you're in my way … – nervously said Toru.

Surely the role played and the chaos in the mind after the reality and fiction are intertwined together. He still did not understand what was happening.

– Just you never had … and why … and in general … – and then froze the Torah. – Akari …

Then he went to her and twisted her right arm.

It Akari squeezed impregnated silk scarf water. She pretended to wipe his eyes, he quietly squeezed and thus simulates tears.

– What is it?

– Sweat of my soul.

– As if a strange excuse will work!

With these words, the Torah grabbed a handkerchief and threw it.

And then he finally calmed down and looked around.

"The Guardian" The Seagull has already fully restarted, and shielded from the surrounding blue barrier in the world. Lost in the time of the castle wall at some point recovered, re-creates the feeling that they were in a maze.

That's just not the detachment Alberic or false gulls were gone.

– What's going on here?

– Fictions. Fakes. Illusions, – he said the seagull, still clutching Gundo.

– Fictions?

– Magic. Matter. Scene. Characters. All … fake.

– … – Thor raised his left hand to his face and looked at her. – Fictions … where they end up?

Alberic cut off his hand, but she was now in place.

Seagull … or rather, its fake, cut back the Torah, but the wound was gone.

And more. Even wounds that he got in a fight with Alberico before falling into the “valley” …

– Oh, how dangerous it was.

– … Oh ?! – He said Toru suddenly heard a voice very close to her ear.

He immediately jumped to the step (further it would not have missed the barrier “Guardian”), but the feeling of being behind someone that is not lost.

Then Thor realized.

– Frederick ?!

All the while sitting on his shoulder the size of a doll girl.

The next moment, it enveloped the blue glow, and Frederick rose to its usual state (however, the Torah still considered her miniature). As always, the change of appearance was not for her no trouble.

– However, the implication was that the wound appeared strange.

– Strange?

– Um … probably not. Maybe it was you were strange, the Torah – Frederick said thoughtfully.

– I? Strange? What are you?

– When I bite you, you become one.

– Yes … you called it a “temporary contract”, right?

Magic Dragoon – the ability to change your body.

It was not just about appearance, but also the size … and what’s more, after the commission of a particular rite called the “contract” that they can control the body of another person as their own. Management body could heal the wounds as if they were not, and so the riders on the dragoons, who have concluded contracts with the dragoons, were virtually immortal.

But … the use of someone else’s body as part of its own led to some side effects.

The most notable – partial destruction of the boundaries of his “I”.

In his time between Frederica and her rider Dominique boundary erased so that Frederick continued to win back Dominique, after the death of the latter and tried to fulfill her dream … and “temporary contract” (which, unlike the present, expressed only in a prolonged bites someone) led the same effect.

If short bites is not so noticeable, then the longest in at some point begins to be confused in the ownership of the thoughts that are carried in your head.

– You’ve got to “inventions”, is not it? – Frederick shrugged. – So they influenced me. You convince yourself that you cut off his hand. This belief was transmitted to me, and I still could not get to focus on treatment.

Therefore, even though she was able to quickly heal the wounds received in the battle over the valley and in the fall, her magic instant treatment is not working after the Torah was dominated by fiction.

By the way, his hand is not really cut off.

Torah simply convinced himself that, given Alberic skills he would lose the hand, and this conclusion was wrong. Matter managed to create a puppet, which simulates the appearance of a Alberic, but not the ability.Yes, the wound to get deep, but, according to

Frederick, to complete loss of the hand is not reached.

– Make yourself …

– Most likely, this matter is not used in order to take control of the mind with the help of magic. I think in fact it, like a mirror, reflects the state of your soul with the help of fiction.

– …Really?

– Mmm. I totally agree. Probably – Chaika confirmed that Tohru turned to her.

– Of course, these fictions you somehow pushed, but … it seems to me, by themselves they are – something like your sleep.

– … My dream.

Thor clenched and unclenched his hands, as if trying to grasp the elusive memories.

Neither the left arm or abdominal or back pain does not remain. Of course, for this cost thanks to the magic of Frederick, but due to the fact that these wounds since disappeared without a trace, the word “dream” takes on special meaning.

And then…

– Do you like to watch the same dreams you, brother – said Akari, arms folded.

– Enough stuff to carry! – He said in response to the Torah.

***

Fog filling the “valley from which no one returned ‘, composed of matter.

He performed two roles – of which consisted of the scene and the actors of fiction, and it also served as a medium for the magic intervenes in the mind and control the mind of people who fall into it.

– In other words, inside of me still remains the matter? – Grimly said Toru, feeling his throat.

The unsuspecting person could quickly breathe in mist, finding themselves in the valley. And if it is poisonous, then you need from him as quickly as possible to get rid of …

– Matter. Not poisonous, – said Gull, realizing fears Torah. – It is used in large-scale magic. Often. Sprayed … strongly. Toxicity is bad.

Or: "As originally matter it is often used in large spells, but dispose of it after use difficult, one of the main principles of creation of matter – to make it non-toxic." Even for the sake of victory in the war to spray toxic materials and make the earth uninhabitable enemy is not necessary – within the land can not be used as a reward, which violates the principle of military benefits.

– By the way, I heard a lot about it – joined Frederick. – In the case of large-scale exterminating spells, like "Hard Rain", previously created a magical substance to facilitate the creation of the "strikers". A cloud of matter is set on the desired site, and then use the main spell.

Because of this, among the soldiers went warning that you need to carefully ensure that you are not turned over clouds unnaturally silver.

However, from the silver gray differs slightly, and to distinguish from the usual cloud of matter thundercloud almost impossible.

– That is, the spell needed preparation? Somehow it is not very convenient.

– Magic, in essence, a "force". No more and no less. Create something out of nothing is impossible in principle.

– It's true? – Toru asked, turning to the Seagull.

Not that he doubted the words Frederica … just heard that there were some differences between magic and human Feil. Or, more precisely, that differences existed between magic that is the

property of the ability of some creatures, and the one developed by other technologies. Not the fact that the words Frederica applies to people of magic.

– Fire. Lightning. Shine. Compress indefinitely. But solid … not get – Seagull nodded, still clutching at Gundo hands.

No matter how much squeeze burning fire, it will not be “hard”.

Draw illusion – is one thing, but to create something tangible needed resources.

Their role was played by the matter.

– At least from our magic and might get the impression, we also do not create something out of nothing – added Frédéric, not at all offended.

Indeed, it may seem that the magic of dragoons creates something out of nothing … but in fact they only seize materials from the environment and change them. Since all living things are made up more than half of the water, basically it means the absorption of steam and moisture from the air, although in appearance and can not be said that they are just “absorb the materials.”

– And yet … – Tohru looked again at what is happening outside the barrier. – What is the type of thought that sprayed this matter?

It is not known whether they had to deal with by Simon scans, but fill this valley only a magician could matter.And given the scale and how difficult is to be a system of management of this spell, the mage had a good source of magical energy, large-scale high-performance Gundo, as well as the necessary knowledge and experience to use such magic. If this is not the Scania Simon, then at least a very skillful magician.

But … the magician of this level there is no need to operate such a roundabout way.

If he wanted to kill the intruders, he could simply use matter as a weapon. You do not need any poison or any puppets. Simply turn the matter, which the enemy had time to breathe in the blades. The

victim simply burst from the inside.

However, their opponent did not.

Instead, he tried to force the detachment Torah pereubivat each other by means of illusions.

Create puppets, scenery, mind control, unobtrusive instigating mutual destruction … Even the Torah, poorly versed in magic, knew that, even if these actions do not go beyond the magic formula that is similar to the spell should strongly exhausting magician.

– Hobbies? – Seagull asked thoughtfully.

– What is it a hobby?

– Brother. They say that this world is full of people with the strange taste, – Akari said. – And I think that the main feature of all these interests – that is, he does not share the interests of their people never will understand.

– Well … yes, indeed.

Maybe there really are people who like to watch other people kill each other. A sort of a form of sadism. And indeed, since everyone has different tastes, look at this any logic sense.

– However, be that as it may, the – Torah folded his arms across his chest. – If we do not do anything with this fog, after the withdrawal of the barrier can again be ruled by fictions.

– I agree – Seagull nodded.

So far, the effect of the fog, or rather, from interfering in the psyche through matter, they defended the barrier “Guardian.”

However, as previously mentioned, it is impossible to move the barrier. In general, since many spell dependent on temperature, air pressure, humidity, position of the stars, power lines, and many other parameters, their application on the move is so complicated that in practice is not performed. And the more complicated or

magic, the brighter it appears.

In other words…

– But we can not sit here forever.

… Detachment of the Torah could not budge.

Naturally, the “Guardian” also can not be maintained forever, but the main thing – is to have had neither food nor water. If as soon as possible come up with a plan to escape from the valley filled with matter, it’s over the fact that they fall into the power of illusions and pereubivayut each other.

– Matter … – Chaika said thoughtfully. – Clutter Control. Maybe … maybe.

– You can?

– Partially. Probably – Seagull nodded. – Control. Forceful intervention. Excluding the effect of. Stop action.

Her speech, as always, sounded shaky and full of terms, because of which the Torah did not understand it, but …

Matter is responsive to the magic.

In practice, however, if some want to use the army attacking or defensive spell using a sensitive matter, their opponents will be able to easily seize control over it. So often when you create matter its “train”, she responded well to only spell a particular magician.

But … it does not mean that the intervention of other magicians can be completely eliminated.

Depending on parameters such as distance from Gundo accuracy spells, magical quality of fuel and other forcibly can try to influence the matter, ruled by the enemy. Of course, to seize control of it will not work, and have to rely on the maximum interference.

Naturally, the fact that Simon Scania drove so many of matter that it covers the entire valley, pointing to the use of powerful Gundo,

much more productive than the portable model, which used a seagull.

Therefore Seagulls intervention in the matter and its disposal should be severely limited, both in time and in scope.

– Good … but still the question of where to find Simon scans.

– Probably, in the center – a surprisingly firm voice said Gull. – Easier. To govern.

Chaika pointed a finger deep into the mist.

Apparently, she meant that the whole matter easier to manage, while in its very center.

– But we do not even know whether he is acting alone.

If Scania Simon settled in the valley, along with any allies, it is not necessarily located in its center.

But…

– Um … – Seagull thought briefly, then said, – probably … one. Simon Scania.

– What makes you think that?

– … Intuition? – Chaika said, as if she is not fully trust his words.

– It is not encouraging.

Tohru sighed.

However, it was not just about “Intuition” and intuition expert. In the absence of other good ideas and serious counter-arguments it is quite possible to rely on.

– Okay. Let’s try to believe … “intuition” Seagulls.

– Torah – Seagulls face brightened.

This in itself was a girl open, but sometimes her emotions

manifested directly childishly sincere. And this smile refers specifically to such cases.

Or … after she saw the illusion of betrayal, the word “believe”, even said with a light heart, really pleased with it.

– But …

Thor cleared his throat, carefully trying not to show any emotion.

Smile Gulls was so contagious that he almost did not smile. But … the embarrassing happens.

– If you make a mistake, then you will have to answer for it in full.

Although, in the worst possible case would die and “defendant” and “plaintiff”.

– M … uh?

– Do not worry. Relax, – said Akari, soothing strained Seagull. – My brother does not resort to force, when it will get you nowhere.

– Um …

Seagull looked at the Torah, and in her violet eyes clearly read the question: “Is it true?”

Standing next to her Akari slowly nodded and added:

– At most … he makes you do something that I am ashamed to say aloud.

– How this should calm her down ?! – Exclaimed Thor, and The Seagull trembled.

– Severe anxiety ..!

– Yes, you do not listen to her! And Akari at all …! When you’re already tired of repeatedly bear whatever came into your head! ..

– I do not like the word “climb up” – Akari reluctantly shook her head. – I just think “would be good if …” and voicing these options.

– So this is called “climbed up”! – Toru cried, striking his fist on the barrier “Guardian.”

Sensations were such, as if he punched the dirt. Most likely, such a soft barrier structure allowed him to effectively repel the attacks, rather than a hard shell.

– Come on, Come on, – with curiosity in his voice said Frederick, looking from the Torah, then at Akari. – What is it you are ashamed to say out loud?

– You know, I can not tell, so let’s draw …

– Well stop !!! – I exclaimed the Torah when Akari pulled out his brush and paper.

***

Blue surface barrier … faded and disappeared.

And at the same moment the Torah with Akari darted forward.

They both rightly proud of their sprinting abilities. One of the fundamentals of combat style saboteurs – the trace of opponents around the finger at the expense of speed and dexterity, so many of them, including the Torah and Akari, could some time to escape from the horse’s speed.

– Do not lag behind.

– You too, brother.

After exchanging these words, the two young commandos ran forward.

Despite the impressive size of the valley and a few bends, the road was straight through it. If not for the labyrinth of matter, to the magician managed to get in a straight line.

And here…

Vuh!

High, almost inaudible sound rushed past the Torah and Akari.

– So … now we know if worked.

They ran straight to the wall.

On their way stood a formidable obstacle, but not saboteurs slows.

And at the very moment when they are about to hit it in a stone wall … all of a sudden there was a huge hole.wall surface distorted, it ran on a wave, and then opened a passage large enough for a man.

Wall reversal like wax hot blade.

Without hesitation, the Torah with Akari jumped into the hole.

– Not bad – Toru smiled, though his face and closed the two-layer mask.

That sound is the magic of Gulls.

But it is not applied the attacking spell. Initially magic “ruler” was used to gain control over matter, the making of it simple “wall” or “soldiers” to help in the battle, but now it only hindered mist.

two contradictory orders to receive the matter turned into a mist, its original shape.

– …

Toru briefly turned.

Fog has to plug the hole in the wall of the maze.

Chaika could alter matter just for a moment. Within a matter of a few seconds ‘wakes up’ and again forms a maze, performing original order.

But…

Vuh!

Seagulls Magic again done a hole in a maze.

In the next hole seemed to figure running beast hanging from his mouth which Seagull, resembling a kitten, which drags the mother cat.

Although there is no word “beast” does not fit here. Let his form he is a little resembled a wolf or a tiger, but his skin was covered with strong armor of silver in the form of scales.

Frederick.

As Feil-dragoon, it could take any form, including a human.

Typically, the most convenient for battle and movement provided a form of “dragon”, but the big body and the wings would be advisable to go through the valley. So now she took animal form, which carry Seagull easier.

Gull is totally focused on the magic.

Whenever Frederick stopped, it adjusts the “Ruler” and shot them.

Torah and Akari ran straight “road”, which paved the Seagull.

Their ultimate goal – to find the magician controlling mist.

And for that, they came up with this plan.

– …

Forward. Only forward.

Run. Run. Run. Run and do not look around.

Just run there, where they point.

And this…

“The reward for their trust,” – thought the Torah.

What a pleasant feeling.

How refreshing to the soul when you can forget about everything and just carried on.

Of course, there was the danger.

If you betray you and come running at full speed into the arms of death. Or if there is no one to whom you could trust. And if you deviate from the course, then himself and pribesh.

Therefore, the first thing to do – to doubt.

Think struggling … and decide.

Faith – this is a difficult choice that needs to be done before the start of operations.

So when you decide to become so good at heart.

Just believe human easy. We just need to give up all the unpleasant thoughts – of doubt and speculation about whether this man be trusted.

But only those who have passed through the flour, can experience the true pleasure of faith.

Even if they betray, they just smile and think “that’s a surprise.”

Because there is a balance between pleasure and torment.

– Hey, Akari, – said the Torah through the mask.

– What’s up, brother?

– What would you do if I gave you for the sake of Seagulls?

– If you … – Akari thoughtfully tilted her head, without reducing the speed. – Something I can not imagine such a situation.

That’s how she trusted the Torah.

– Well, let’s say, for example … when we find the last “remains”, you would be dying, and I have to leave you.

– … – Akari frowned. In a moment she thought, and then, – Are you saying it would be a betrayal?

Instead of answering the question Toru heard uttered thoughtful voice.

– Life is made in exchange for the purpose – and our dream that brings glory saboteurs … is not it?

– Well … that's the way it so …

Vuh!

Torah and Akari jumped through another distorted wall.

They happened almost simultaneously.

– If it is set in front of you for the sake of the goal, then perhaps you should not carry it out?

– Well … from my point of view it can, and will, but I'm asking about you, Akari.

She could become a victim for the purpose of the Torah.

Did she considers it natural?

– Brother, you are so selfish … but, no. Maybe you lack horizons – suddenly said Akari.

– What did you say?..

– Remember when you said "my goal – to the man achieved his goal"? That's what I thought as well.

– But … these are my thoughts.

– I'm your sister. Of course, you and I thought the same.

– …

In other words, the Torah, "the man" was a seagull.

And for Akari – the Torah.

And then …

– Oh, brother, what are you reckless – Akari said with a hint of brokenness in her voice. – Feelings take over the top of you, and you rushing forward. And yet … you can not stop thinking, and then stopping and thinking.For this, I love you and respect you, but to be honest, sometimes I think that you're not really pull on the saboteur.

– … – The Torah found in her words are so many things that he could agree that the answer did not come up.- They say that their young adult boys the same age. Apparently, not in vain …

In a sense, the thought Akari were several times ordering than the Torah.

That conclusion, which the Torah came only after being in illusions, Akari gave a long time ago.

– What's up, brother? Did I say something wrong?

– There is nothing.

Tohru smiled, then jumped with Akari opened in another hole.

***

Most likely … once it was a big machine.

However, after several modifications and due to the fact that several layers of fabric enveloped in it, resembling blood vessels, it is completely lost its original form. Only a few of the remaining wheels gives an indication of what they saw.

It stood on a platform, surrounded on all sides by stone walls.

Many Gundo, located in the heart of the valley.

It was like a giant heart, and entangles its matter is continuously pulsing blue light. In some places penetrated projections like horns

between vessels. Around on the ground littered with old parts, apparently, no longer required after the modification of the machine. Because of them, the feeling of abandonment.

This picture came up only one word – unnatural.

A huge heart that beats in the depths of the labyrinth.

Of course, through it is not circulating blood, and the most ominous fog, which kept the magic valley.Therefore, around the “heart” of the fog was particularly dense. Careless attempt to get close to clearly hit a power over illusions.

And besides …

– Clearly, – Torah, squinting said. – Initially, it is the same spell as that of the Gulls.

– Um – standing next to him nodded Seagull.

In other words, all illusions “of the valley, from which no one returns,” held on a single spell – a large-scale “Ruler”. Or, at least, in the spell of the same type and works on the same principle. Of course, the power of spells and scale varied dramatically – affected huge Gundo made out of the car, as well as, most likely, a much more powerful source of magic.

A fog played only two functions – media management and intelligence material to create designs.

Of course, this spell could operate as usual “ruler.”

Namely…

– I never thought that this comes up …

– … I think there are about 50, – I figured Akari’s eyes narrowed.

Directly in front of a detachment of the Torah (which only managed to enter the territory of the site) stood somewhere 50 pieces, block the passage to the “heart”.

Weak melee mages needed protection.

It is therefore natural to assume that the magician has attended to search for a method to fight in close combat, like the Seagull, hired spies.

But…

– Brother, we are with you … Seagulls and Frederica is not too small? – Akari whispered.

All of these figures were in the form Thor, Akari, Seagulls and Frederica. As is the fictional Gull, they are actually composed of matter.

– They copy the look, but not technology, – said Thor, recalling false Alberic. – This is just a puppet.Individually, they do not represent themselves. That's just …

Puppets together took up arms.

Torah and Akari stood with stilettos and hammers, but the Seagulls were armed with spears and axes, because of what looked ridiculous and absurd. Most likely, the Magic could not simulate Gundo and therefore replaced it with a similar weapon. As for the false Frederick, they were unarmed.

– Here, apparently, the idea is to confuse us?

– Confuse? Than? – I surprised Akari.

– Well, would not want to fight against friends and family … – I began the Torah, but … – Although there is. Not in this case.

Sister Torah wake him, throwing in the morning with a hammer. He has repeatedly had to fight with her, and a few copies of it would not be confused. With the illusion of seagulls, he also had an affair and did not feel any doubt at the sight of a puppet with her appearance. On the contrary, small differences like the same weapons, aroused in him a feeling that this is fake seagulls.

But Frederick certainly would gladly pereubivala all illusions Torah.

But…

– What a dangerous enemy – suddenly said Akari. – Beats right in the weak spot.

– What? Do you want to hit me in the face? – Thor grinned.

But Akari immediately shook her head.

– Why? No.

– …

– On the contrary, I can not wait. Not sure I can keep calm.

– … It is clear, of course, – the Torah sighed, once again berated myself for what to expect from it is impossible.

– Although, no, brother, wait a minute – Akari said, clutching his left fist to his chest, as if trying to stop shivering. – In your words there is a grain of truth.

– ABOUT?

– If they are now together undress …

– … You think about it?

– Well, can you be excited that you can not fight, brother.

– Here's another!

All of these "soldiers" consisted entirely of matter, so that the clothes they have, you might say, was not. It turns out they are already naked.

– Can not be. If my brother undressed, I … – Akari paused for a few seconds, something intense thinking. – Invented.

Coming finally to some kind of conclusion, she clapped her hands.

– Let's finish them off, and then I'll do all I can and stuffed consider carefully.

– … Maybe it's better to forget about the trust and kill you until it's too late? – Growled the Torah, and then snatched komboklinki.

Seals on the palms touched the seals on the stiletto, activating the extension of the senses. Thor turned into a living weapon with blades instead of nails. After using the "Zheleznokroviya" it was still very little time, and in this battle will have fight as usual … but this is not a problem.

In the end, though, "Zheleznokrovie" and trump card is just one of the techniques in the arsenal of saboteurs.Moreover, it is not a panacea that can save any situation. In the battle against a large number of enemies is more important than, for example, to save power, rather than spending it in seconds.

But back to the topic …

– Seagull. Fakes we will undertake – Tohru said, looking at how the "soldiers" has gradually become a semi-circle around them. – Your goal – base.

– Base?

– That one gizmo – the Torah have to continue to pulsate blue "heart".

If the magic works in the same way as the "Ruler", the vulnerability "soldier" was not in their bodies, not on the matter, and in the Gundo. If the mechanism will be able to break down, it will stop immediately "soldiers".

The only question is, how to destroy it "heart".

Even though they were on a large site on all sides was surrounded by a wall. Rebounding from a powerful spell could hurt the squad Torah. In addition, the preparation of powerful spells require time.

So count only accounts for a surgical strike.

And no one, except seagulls, did not know exactly where to apply spot-kick when it comes to magical equipment.

– I have no idea where he had a weak spot. You'll be able to understand something, The Seagull?

– Realized – Seagull nodded.

– I expect you … my mistress.

– Mmm. Mastering … – she replied … and then added with a smile, – My liege ….

– Heh – Toru smiled slightly and nodded, then turned to Akari. – Come on.

– Yeah … – Akari responded somewhat acidly.

Admittedly this "feeling" it proved so weak that it could only make out the Torah through their experience.

– … And try not mistakenly hit the "original", – he added the Torah with a forced smile … and Akari sour nodded.

– …I will try to.

– Wait, what it means to "Try"?

"I'll try" means "do not be offended if suddenly will not work."

Or, if you get on the other hand, just the words that she would have said, if expected to hit him.

– Are you mad?

– Do not get angry, – Akari said. – Just duyus.

– …

"I do not understand anything, but currently do not say," – I was about to answer the Torah …

But at this very moment 50 fakes amicably rushed to the attack.

***

Return here. Return here. Return here.

Torah, Akari, Seagull, Frederica.

Odnolikih figures with prodigious speed changed places, like images in a kaleidoscope. It looked ridiculous happening.

– Um … – handed Seagull, aiming Gundo.

Own clones it is not particularly bothered. Seagull well aware that it is real, and all the rest – fake, and therefore not afraid of accidentally hurt themselves spell.

The same applies to Frederica.

This Frederick remained near Seagull in the form of an animal.

According to the Torah, he did not understand what this girl thinks, rather, feil, and Seagull fully agree with him. However, if we assume that it is not an enemy, it is easy to believe that she has decided to protect the Seagull.

Therefore, all other Frederica immediately turned out to be fakes, which you can not hesitate to fire at the attacking magic.

The problem lay in the Torah and Akari.

In general, the “soldiers” were slightly different from the originals.

This concerned Gulls Frederick. Small differences in dress, slightly different facial features, slightly modified growth or parts of weapons. Perhaps this mist operation costs. Perhaps the error memory the Torah, which is extracted from the images. But the fact is that there is imitation imitation, fake fake there, and if you put them next to the originals, the difference is not difficult to notice.

But as soon as they begin to move, the situation has dramatically complicated.

Stop them still – and Seagull easy to determine where the real Torah and Akari are. In this comparison the original differences perforce conspicuous.

But now they are moving without stopping among the fakes, flickering into view only for a moment.

And more than that – at least those “soldiers”, which won the Torah and Akari, and turned to mist, thereupon they immediately restored. Their lifeless opponents had a significant advantage – the ability to respawn infinitely.

Because of this, to make out who is who, it became very difficult.

Hinders and what Gundo sight even more narrowed field of vision.

– M … um …

Of course, the “fakes” a lot more originals.

Moreover, Seagull was aiming not at all “soldiers”, or their originals, and “antenna” that huge Gundo, which most likely took refuge Simon Scania.

The chances of a shot touches the Torah or Akari, small.

And, nevertheless, it was a spell to destroy the metal antenna. If gull suddenly miss and fall into the Torah or Akari … at best they get off serious injuries, and probably just die on the spot.

– Um …

Seagull has cast a spell. Even adjust the settings.

It remained only to read the run spell and pull the trigger, but …

– What? You doubt? – Suddenly I heard a voice next to her.

There was no need to turn around. She said Frederick.

Even without being in human form, she went on to say quite flatly, what causes confusion and dissonance. It was as if the creature does not use human language on a par with them, but simply learned human habits and looks at them with a bird’s-eye view.

– … Uh.

Seagull really doubted it.

Although she said that the “right”, it turned out that act in a situation where her own actions can seriously injure or kill someone, very hard.

Of course, she already has behind him the experience of a serious battle – a battle with Dominica – but this time it has been reduced to the role of the support, and the main battle (or at least its roleplaying) fell on the shoulders of the Torah.

But now it’s different. Now the Torah and Akari just won her time.

The key to victory was in the hands of the Seagulls.

– But you are unlikely to accidentally zadenesh and kill them, right?

– …Agree.

But … but what if touches?

These thoughts gave rise to doubts, postpones the moment of firing.

Although the Torah and Akari said they only “dealers own life,” Chaika is not so stupid as to take these words literally. On the contrary, it is most did not want to hurt them just because they talked about themselves.

How hard … when you believe in.

– And what are you going to watch and not do anything?

Her words did not sound like an accusation.

They sounded like the words of a stranger … a surprisingly indifferent to what is happening man.

– …

Naturally, Seagull was not going to do nothing.

Because then efforts will be meaningless Torah and Akari, distracting themselves “soldiers”. Let their opponents are weak, but

armed and numerous. Saboteurs risked their lives fighting against them.

– How did you wonder – all kept telling Frederick, in spite of the situation. – With people.

– …

– It's because you, unlike us, can not be united in "one", right? Even the magic of transfer of feelings, or mind control will not give you access to the consciousness, emotions and memory of another. You can never understand each other to the end, and at some point you have to judge someone or yourself.

Perfect true.

Then Frederick said:

– You call this judgment "faith"?

– …

Seagull blinked several times.

And then…

– That is, – she whispered in the northern language. – If they believe in me, and I should.

She focused on the image in sight.

And then … he pulled the trigger.

***

On the site there was a high-pitched sound, as if something had shattered.

Standing in the heart of a powerful magical equipment … or rather, all sticking out of his projections, once cut through at the base.

Combat Magic slashing like "The Ripper".

Thor has had to see her.

Spell with awesome precision flew next to him, raspolovinit the path of one of the false Frederick, is going to pounce on him.

Do Torah only half a step, dodging attacks or blocking its komboklinkom, the spell would be deprived of all his right hand.

It is a dangerous shot.

In the Torah … but what's there, in the movements of any person has their own characteristics.

The same Akari knew how to move the Torah. She would have immediately realized that an attack of that Frederica he would not stop, and be dodged, stepping aside.

But what about the seagulls?

– …

Thor turned in her direction.

She fired because surmised his movements?

Or was he just lucky to survive?

– Well … it does not matter – the Torah muttered with a forced smile.

The result is still important.

Crossing in front of a komboklinki, it took them a blow hammer Akari nakinuvsheysya side. There was a ringing metallic sound, and hands a little Torah shifted under the weight. Heavy, sharp, sincere blow, it is not pulling on the "welcome".

– Hey …

– What's up, brother? – Akari responded as always in a calm voice.

– Did not I tell you not to attack the original by mistake?

– I am not in error, – she said confidently. – I deliberately attacked his real brother.

– That's even worse! – Exclaimed the Torah, but did not think Akari and clean up his hammer.

The outlines of "soldiers" around them quickly blurred in the air, and they broke up, dissipated and disappeared. Shot Seagulls destroyed part of magical equipment, and it could no longer manipulate matter.

– I'm worried about you. This is a warning that the sides of dangerous stare.

– It's there for you to be dangerous! – Once said Toru and waved swords, throwing the hammer. – And in general, I'm not staring … just briefly turned toward the Gulls.

– So you can not too.

– Why is that?

– My dear brother can make a girl pregnant at a glance.

– Yes, I have no such super powers!

In the meantime, the Torah and Akari exchanged commonplace – even too commonplace for them – a phrase, the landscape around them has changed dramatically.

Initially collapsed stone walls, and behind them – the stone ceiling, all the time hanging over their heads.They all turned to blue mist, and then he slowly sank to the ground, as if the ashes from the fire.

Overview improved.

Became visible heavens and the sheer rock walls of the valley.

It seems that after the loss of control of the machine could not support the matter even in the mist condition.

– Sorry … – dropped Akari.

– What a pity?

– I was hoping that at least one false brother left.

– Why did you … but, no, I do not want to hear it.

– No, let me tell you.

– Shut up.

– First, I would partition it, and thoroughly washed.

– I said, shut up.

– Then thoroughly dried.

– You do dried human gathered?

– Ability to make a light, compact, mobile version of my brother would be a landmark moment for me.

– You should ask someone what is called epoch-making moments – angrily threw the Torah, turning in the direction of a huge magical Gundo.

Although it has lost the ability to control matter, the rest of the machine, which served as the basis of the mechanism is not affected, and therefore entrenched within the magician must be intact.

If this magician has in store and portable Gundo, he can still fight.

But…

– Something he had not prepared …

Thor took a throwing knife and threw it into the car.

Little black blade flew in a straight line, the car hit the wall, which is still crumbling matter, I carved a few sparks flew off to the side.

That's all.

There was no reaction. Flown away throwing knife flipped in the air and stuck in the ground covered with fallen matter.

– Stay where you are, – said the rest of the Torah and walked toward the huge Gundo.

And here…

– Thor! – I heard a cry of seagulls.

There was a grinding of metal … and then all the exterior walls Gundo fell off and fell. It seems that a sharp change of climate has broken the delicate balance. The steel plates fell on the ground covered with the matter raised in the air of dust.

– I'm fine – not taking his eyes off the car, Toru waved his hand, warning his comrades.

The dust has settled quickly, and the eyes Torah detachment appeared insides collapsed car.

– It…

… Dry corpse.

Apparently, the adult male. Age does not define.

It completely disintegrated – it seems that were buried directly in the machine. Most likely, he died long ago.On the neck wound cord, like a seagull, indicating that he was a magician.

– What is it?

Thor went up to the corpse and dropped to one knee.

Other magicians were not there. So, this "valley" ran corpse? ..

– Thor!

Seagull ran to the Torah with the others.

– This Scania Simon? – He asked, standing up and looking around the body.

– … Unknown – Seagull shaking her head with a puzzled look.

Well, in this form, and his mother would not recognize my own.

– Hmm .. – Frederick newly converted man looked over his shoulder and looked at the Torah corpse. – A. These bracelets I had seen several times.

With these words, she pointed to the bracelet on his left hand of a corpse.

Upon closer inspection it turned out to be a bracelet Army markings. Thor reached out and brushed the matter, find below the eight-digit number and an engraved name: “Simon Scania”.

It turns out that this is still a corpse Simon Scania.

– So, the remains should be somewhere inside the machine? – I suggested the Torah and tried to touch the cord sticking out of the neck of the corpse, when suddenly …

– Do not touch!!! – A voice.

-?!

Toru reflexively stood in a fighting stance.

The voice belonged to a very nervous man.

Of course, this was not the Torah and have much less Seagull, Akari or Frederick.

But then who could say …

– Can not be…

Squinting, Toru examined the corpse.

And then between himself and the lifeless body suddenly a shadow appeared.

Blue, Transparent, similar to the illusion.

Perhaps the remaining near Gundo matter responded to the still active spell. In the end, Seagull destroyed because only that part Gundo that was responsible for the spread of effect. Matter, remaining very close to the engine, it is still able to respond to the magic.

– Do not touch! Do not touch! Do not come! Oo-oo-oo, oo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo! – I yelled shadow, waving his arms and wandering around the corpse.

In appearance it resembled a middle-aged man.

In itself, his face was serious … but if wearing a mask of madness. Torah is often heard about people losing my mind because of its seriousness, or rather, the inability to make concessions and compromises.

– Do not come! Do not come-and! – Shouted an illusion, still roam.

It's not like she was trying anything to do with a group of Torah. Moreover, she did not even look in their direction.

– This is the guy I remember – Frederick said. – He was in the same squad with Dominica.

So … this is really Simon Scania.

But…

– What does it mean?

– Probably … – quietly dropped Seagull. – Death. Connection.

– Do you think he died while using the spell?

– Um – Seagull with a grim nod. – Run the spell. Requires … will. But only starting.

magic activation requires the will of the one who uses it … namely – a living person.

But powerful automated Gundo may own to consume fuel and

maintain the spell, and after the death of magician run them. Moreover – they say that sometimes fragments, echoes the will of the magician may get stuck in them.

– Do not come closer! Do not touch! Do not come-and! What, what are you going to do with me ?! Back!What are you up to ?! Dont touch me!!! Oh, and the remains, you come to pick up the remains ?! I do not give, do not give it! – She continued to scream shadow distraught Simon Scania.

Although … maybe he himself was insane.

– Is he…

Thor looked at the dried-up face of a corpse, where frozen grimace of horror.

He had imagined about how this man died.

Scania Simon did not believe anyone.

So he sat down in the deserted valley … where something happened to him.

But as Simon Scania, in principle, I did not trust the people, he had no one to ask for help. Even in trouble, he could not rely on anyone. Most likely, he had convinced himself that all the people around him – the scoundrels, who will surely betray him.

As a result, Scania Simon and died alone, without waiting for salvation.

– Is he…

– Thor …

Chaika pulled out an object, which is found among the machinery.

Book … or rather, the magazine.

Seagull opened it and began flipping. Pages were full of detailed diagrams and a variety of magical notes.

– Still … the truth, – said Gull, frowning.

– True? What exactly?

– … Enjoy.

With these words, the rest of the magazine held Seagull.

Of course, the Torah, as a layman, it is not understood graphs and technical explanations … but even he said the word “betrayal” and “boost” here and there in the text.

– Hobbies Simon Scania. Betrayal. The destruction of trust. … Watch and enjoy.

– Bad taste, as it is, – summed Akari.

It seems that Simon Scania enjoyed how wandered into the valley people in anger and hatred were killing each other, believing that they had been betrayed.

Therefore, the only reason this man has developed monstrously massive and elaborate spell that sought in the mind and memory of human images of those he believed to extract them, create puppets and played out scenes betrayal … The whole complex system existed only for this purpose.

And spell continued to work even after the creator’s death by feeding within the valley people of their own illusions. In the minds of all the people that came here to detachment Torah, were printed the same gnawing doubt that Simon and Scania. In the end, they either kill each other or rotted right there, afraid to come out of the valley.

In other words, it was the curse of no confidence.

It spread throughout the valley with magic and matter, infecting and ruining all the people to whom falls short.

– …

Scroll through the magazine, the Torah found in it besides charts

and notes, a kind of diary.

It is almost entirely composed of words of hatred.

Basically … to his partner and wife.

The detachment, which was Simon Scania, was killed by enemy attack … and only he survived most miraculously.

They brought down “Hard Rain” – a large-scale attack spell.

As already mentioned Chaika and Frederica, “Hard Rain” was based on the use of the substance sprayed on the desired area. Without training it does not apply. So, in the troop Simon was a traitor who killed them, informing the enemy route.

Survivor Simon started to look for a traitor … and found.

It proved to be his running mate, the reserve due to injury two weeks ago.

Mate … and change with him Simon’s wife.

Deciding to get rid of hindered Simon and earn good money, they sold an enemy army information about the party. Maneuverable platoon Simon fought very effectively, greatly annoying the enemy … and the rewards they offer for information, with more than enough for life “married”.

– Because it … – said with a sigh Torah. – Because of him from the beginning betrayed …

Betrayed by those he trusted wholeheartedly.

Just two people.

And Simon killed traitors.

But even after this raging fury subsided within it.

Furthermore – after the case he had not yet had time to see how people betray others.

Parents – children. Men – women. Husbands – wives. Friends of friends. Students – teachers. Commanders – subordinates.

And betray and betray and betray and betray.

So he finally stopped to believe that there is good in people.

Therefore, since he always thought that all men – is up to something traitors.

Perhaps that's why Simon began to taunt the trust as a whole. He was glad only that destroy the bonds of trust each other people …

– You can not fool me! Do not be fooled-eat! – Shouts the ghost of Simon Scania increasingly resembled crying.

And at the sight of this …

– Thor? – Seagull asked in surprise, seeing as the saboteur again bent over the corpse.

Toru soft voice addressed to the dead magician:

– Thank you.

– ..

Seagull and Akari looked at each other – they clearly do not understand the meaning of his words.

But Thor went on to say:

– Thanks to you I was able to think about a lot ….

Namely: that is to believe anyone.

He was able to fix the feelings that before seemed to him vague.

Of course, the plans of Simon Scania is not included, but …

– Let faith sided – Toru said. – What's wrong is that you cheated?

It is unlikely that the dead man heard these words.

But the shadow of Simon Scania momentarily froze.

In fact, it was probably just a coincidence, just a pause between actions prescribed spell. And yet it seemed that the shadow froze because listened to the words of the Torah.

– The fact that you betrayed – only the result.

Faith is bearing fruit.

The feeling that you are on the right track, so welcome after the doubt and uncertainty.

Firm faith allows carelessly rush straight to his goal.

Such happiness is difficult to replace anything.

– Be proud of the fact that believe. I feel sorry for those who could not do it.

It happens that you are not well thought, could not see the true intentions of the person, and as a result you have betrayed. There is a magic mark “now you thought about enough, now you can be sure.” Therefore, it is impossible to completely eliminate the betrayal.

But it is not important.

In order to run at full speed in order to live in full force, you must believe in something.

That’s all. If faith is giving you to live in full force, so it is not in vain. All people eventually die. The only difference is whether they die happy.

– Faith – a piece is one-sided. But it’s not so bad. Probably.

Treaty, Thor swung his right komboklinkom.

The cord connecting the corpse with Gundo like binds to this ghost world, hung helplessly.

And in the next moment the ghost of Simon Scania melted in the air.

– Thor …

– …

He did not respond to the voice of Seagulls, instead sliding the corpse of Simon Scania. Under the dried body was found covered container.

Shadow screamed that he should pay remains.

Probably, money, magic and things have become all things to him, because they can not deliver.

So he always kept them close. Just like Seagull keeps beside him your coffin.

Toru cut edge of the cover komboklinka.

– … I guess.

Inside … it was leg bent at the knee, sealed in a glass cylinder.

***

When Alberic woke up, he discovered that stuck somewhere in the middle of the cliff.

– Uh …

The whole body ached with pain.

Alberic strained by turns each limb. All of them responded to pain from bruises, broken bones but was not.Finally he felt his ribs, but with them it was all right.

– Where I am?..

Looking around, he realized that he was speaking on the sheer wall of rock.

Apparently, when it started to collapse, Alberic slid on the slope of the walls of the valley and eventually got stuck here. Fortunately for him, even though the wall was almost vertical, roll and glide over the smooth rocks to soften the blow … and unfortunately, when landing, he hit his head, because of which he lost consciousness.

Alberic looked at his hand and saw that he still squeezes a sword.

Perhaps this, too, fortunately.

– Ki …

Overcoming the remains of a dull pain in the head, Alberic to his feet and put the sword into the sheath.Then he wiped the dust.

– What does it mean?..

The fog lifted ….

Pale blue mist fills the valley, he disappeared. This is easily visible bottom. Valley wound several times, and all from one place to glance over her did not work … But at least Alberic knew the approximate size and shape “of the valley, from which no one returns.”

– Something happened? – He said with a frown … and then finally noticed beside her body. – … Vivi?

Long-haired girl assassin was lying on his back, unconscious.

– Vivi, Vivi!

According to her forehead she ran a trickle of blood. She seems like Alberic, hit her head. Knight immediately stretched out his hands to pick it up, but changed his mind and stopped himself.

Perhaps her wound was deeper and affected the brain. According to Mateus, in such cases, the wrong move can cause irreversible damage. Matheus versed in control of magic, but also had extensive knowledge of medicine, since the same magic can be used for treatment.

– Where Matheus ..?

Alberic glanced around, trying to find a help, but other than Vivi there was no one.

And anyway, what about the “April”? Is it a failure? If not, Matheus

and Zita were upstairs. Hard to say what happened to Nicholas and Leonardo … but can not be checked.

– What to do? – Muttered sullenly Alberic.

And then … who was lying at his feet Vivi flinched slightly and opened her eyes.

– Vivi!

– T … Mr. Gillette.

Vivi blinked and sat up.

Then immediately I put a hand to his head and moaned softly.

– Do not rush. You hit your head. To be honest, as long as you better not move.

– …

When he saw traces of blood on his fingers, Vivi somehow annoyed bit her lip.

– It seems that the fog cleared, so if we wait a little bit, Matthews and others think of something. In the meantime, we'd better stay here.

With these words, Alberic sat next to Vivi.

– Excuse me … – quietly dropped that, his head hanging.

Alberic frowned and looked at her.

– Hmm? What are you?

– I interrupted you ….

Vivi seemed genuinely annoyed.

It seems that the loss of consciousness would not let her rest. It seemed to her that she too bother Alberic, forcing help themselves.

– Do not be ridiculous. You helped me so many times, and I can not remember you at least once a hindrance.

– But now…

– I, too, hit his head and lost consciousness. Just lucky I was to wake up a little earlier than you, – with these words Alberic lightly tapped his head. – Two people injured there anything sensible not do. Here is my solution. I can assure you that it is extremely objective, impartial and not related to my emotions.

After these words, Alberic smiled tightly.

Vivi blinked in astonishment, and a second …

– Thank you … – she said, and then again with his head hanging.

Alberic had not noticed that her cheeks slightly flushed. For a young man of noble birth is, perhaps, not so surprising.

– What a strange place – Alberic said. – The fog that filled the valley, suddenly disappeared. But locals say he hung for several years. Matheus and Zita have even suggested that it may be a matter for the spell …

– It's … the place where Simon vanished Scania?

– Looks like it. Most likely, Seagull Gas and her followers came here, following the same rumors. That's just … why Scania Simon took this place?

– …

Vivi squeezed the wound on his head and looked around.

Without fog valley has become a usual bleak gorge. From the land did not grow a single blade of grass – dense fog almost missed the sunlight.

– I heard he was a man who does not trust anyone …

– Maybe he came here to die?

– Hero?

This topic has surfaced before – it seems that all the special detachment of 8 people, all the “murderer of the Emperor” eked out a miserable existence. Of course, partly the reason for it was the fact that their names were not announced publicly, but beyond that … they seemed a broken people.

At first glance Robert Earl Abarth led a quiet inconspicuous life, but in a conversation with him and then flashed inadequate … and even some despair.

Surely in a special unit recorded just people with similar problems?

Or maybe … Cursed clash with the Emperor Arthur Gas left in their soul scars?

Or … have their trophies, in the remains of Arthur Gaza, something that drives people crazy?

Whatever it was…

– People – fragile creation, – whispered Alberic.

– Mr. Gillette?

– And the soul. And the body. They break easily when something happens. Heroes – is no exception.

– …

– Maybe I was destined to break from things a trifle.

– What are you … – Vivi did not finish his sentence.

Raised assassin, she knew about the dark recesses of the human soul, even more than she wanted. She was well aware of how weak people, and how because of that selfish.

But that’s why …

– Mr. Gillette !!!

And then over their heads came a familiar voice.

Alberic and Vivi looked up in unison.

On the wall on a rope down to him Mateus. At the very top, at the cliff, could be seen face of Nicholas, Zita and Leonardo.

– Are you okay? – Loudly asked Nicholas.

– Yes, in general we Vivi's okay.

– We're going to stay on the site, – announced down the wall Mateus.

Even from this distance on the faces of Zita and Leonardo could see the relief.

– Vivi wounded. First inspect it.

– You understand – Matheus nodded.

They have waited for Matheus later, when Alberic suddenly turned to Vivi and said:

– It is because people are fragile, they have to live, believing in someone and clinging to something. I'm alive because I help a lot of people: you, Mateus, Nicholas, Zita and Leonardo. This applies to you.

– Mr. Gillette … – and I could only say Vivi, frozen with a strained face.

Its appearance caused in Alberic smile, and then he continued:

– There is no need to be ashamed of. Rather, it is liars who say out loud that they live by themselves, without disturbing anyone, should be ashamed. I think so.

– … Well, – said the girl-assassin, nodded and smiled slightly.

Epilogue

“Svetlana” was driving on the road, breaking the silence of the night the quiet hum of the motor.

Given the fact that they were traveling at night, on a rough dirt road with poor visibility, but still hard to resist sleep, risk of crash or tip came out real hard … but the fugitives rarely think about their safety.

And with the possibility of meeting with a group of Gillette in Rademio now any danger had to close his eyes – it was necessary to break away at any cost.

– Uh … – I sighed, sitting on the passenger seat of the Torah.

On the way back from “the valley from which no one returns” Gillette squad they are not met. Maybe … they also caught and firmly immobilize the illusion. Ideally, they could have pereubivat each other … but the Torah was not going to succumb to the optimism and forget about caution.

– The Torah. Tired? – I asked, tilting his head, seagull sitting in the driver’s seat.

– Well, a little bit.

Despite the fact that he was tired and had Seagull, she did not seem sluggish. On the contrary, “Svetlana” she ran very briskly.

– And how are you?

– Um – Seagull thought for a moment, then replied, – Endurance. The magical energy. Different.

– So that’s it.

– Mmm.

Seagull as a magician, know better.

Since the machine can only control the magician, the Torah could not tell her that it rested. He could only help her not to sleep with endless conversations have been going half the night.

– By the way … – Tohru began recalling huge Gundo of the "valley". – You've said that after the launch of the magic can operate without a magician?

– Um … I confirm. But the movement. It requires adjustment.

– Ah, I got it. It worked because Gundo not move.

Location influenced the magic.

To take it into account, required knowledge and experience magician. Magic mechanism drives the car, was not an exception – if the manager is not a magician they will periodically adjust it, he quickly stopped.

In contrast, the mechanism of the "valley" stood still and did not move.

This spell is not dissipated, even after the death of the magician, and continued to work.

– Something here does not add up … – Thor said, stretching himself in the passenger seat. – He's earned the title of hero. He had enough money to carefree life. Besides, it had "remains". But he kept to his disbelief and eventually rotted at the bottom of the valley. Even though I had personally and I do not know … but still, what he had for life was that?

– …

Gull said nothing.

Scania Simon – one of those people who killed her father … but even Seagull certainly imbued with compassion for the way he died.

– And here I thought … – Thor continued, looking at the night sky. – Seagull, you said that Simon Scania has developed the magic of illusion, because it was his "hobby", right? But does he really

enjoyed it …?

– .. – Seagull tilted her head questioningly.

– Well … I mean, that all of a sudden really …

Thor picked up a magazine that was lying next to him.

The same journal that they found next to the corpse of Simon Scania on the valley floor.

– He wanted someone once destroyed by their illusions ..?

– I wanted to ..?

– As a little too hard to believe that a person has lost the faith … will only make fun of people who believe as fools.

Anger and hatred are like a flame.

At some point, the flame becomes so strong … that begins to absorb everything around you to continue to burn. So maybe Scania Simon was trying to do something with this whirlwind raged inside him?

He could not believe it.

But he wanted.

– Therefore, it is most …

Oh, if he was not expecting … someone who could break through his beliefs?

The one who does not like to break the betrayal of a loved one who would be able to believe again and move forward?

Someone who would give him to believe in the notion of faith?

But … the longer he was looking for, the more scenes of betrayal seen. Maybe, in the end, Simon Scania simply despaired of people?

Then it turns out that the magician threw his rank, his fame, his money for the sake of desire to regain their “faith” … but in the

end, he died, it is completely desperate.

– Now it does not matter. If we … met him earlier …

They did not know when he died Simon Scania. But if you found it while he was alive … then maybe the Torah and be able to take it out of desperation.

– Torah … good, – said the seagull, smiling gently.

– Hmm? Do you think so?

– Mmm. Not like that. On the saboteur.

– Akari … I have something to say in this spirit.

In fact, the Torah itself is not a good thought.

He just thought that if it was in place Scania Simon, then could not bear it. To some extent, he also knew what it was like – to feel the thirst for revenge and despair. Therefore, he could imagine the torment Simon.

– The death of trust or death in doubt … – Tohru whispered, staring into the night sky. – Death still can not avoid, but I want to die, proud of the fact that believe.

– …

– Anyway.

Thor shrugged.

What happened, it happened. There is no need to mourn the dead man's grief.

– The Torah.

– Yes?

– … Illusion. We Torah. Together … – Seagull suddenly tilted her head and blushed.

– Eh? A. Ah – the Torah scratched his cheek and smiled awkwardly.
– So you saw it? Oh, sorry, never mind.

She spoke about the relationship Torah and Seagulls in illusion.

In preparing the desired satellite, which the Torah would be unconditionally trusted illusion chose the scenario of love Seagulls and the Torah. Why not on Frederick – clear, and Akari is apparently not chosen because the beloved betrayal felt more painful than a betrayal of the sisters … or the case simply that Simon and scans betrayed spouse.

But it was only an illusion.

In reality, with their Seagull does not associate anything … probably.

– Ya No way. Not. Pre …

– An incredible story is true? – Interrupted the Torah Seagull, not noticing her whisper. – So we like that with you, huh?

– Mmm?

Violet eyes Seagulls blinked.

– Oh, that's that, and it's complete nonsense.

– …

– It would be an illusion, choose the scenario porealistichnee.

– …

– Well, maybe Akari on the role did not suit. But Frederick did and said the first thing that will kill me. Here you by exception remained.

Given the fact that the Torah completely bought into this "unrealistic" the illusion, his words sounded like an excuse.

But…

– Seagull?

– …

At some point, she turned back and frowned.

It seems that her mood was spoiled.

– What?

– …

Seagull remained silent and sulking.

– … I do not understand.

It is impossible to understand the other person. And as a man a woman – even more so.

But … believe – possible.

Not resetting all the responsibility on the person, and answering himself.

Believe for its own sake – it’s wonderful.

Therefore…

– One-way, then …

Well, let.

On the contrary, since it even more sense.

“Surely Hasumin words meant exactly that.”

Continuing to look into the night sky, Toru smiled slightly.

Afterword

Hello, this is a novelist Sakaki.

Thanks for reading the third volume of “Chaika – Princess with a coffin.”

Planning for the new novel takes place in one of two scenarios.

The first – when I take one of those prototypes that come up regularly, and finish it to a novel plan.

Second – when I start with the requirements of the genre and story elements, given the editor and chief editor, and come up to them the universe, characters and plot.

Seagull refers to the second case.

Therefore…

– Sakaki-san. We introduced the main characters, and now need a story that will deepen their bond!

– Deepen the bonds, you say?

– Yes, it deepens!

– But in the second volume it has already had a serious battle (impossible without ties)!

– It should be even deeper!

– Are we trying to find the bottom of the ocean? (In general, the bonds of whom with whom?)

– No.

…

And somehow I had to sit down for a story that would have

deepened ties.

That's just how it is, deepen the bonds?

People have a habit attached to verbal concepts and mistakenly believe that words alone are not enough to convey ideas. I, too, sometimes about something and wonder incorrectly interpret the words.

So … "ties" – a connection, and the "deepening" – is strengthened.

And here I thought that people with each other ultimately binds "trust".

And then I started thinking about what it means to "believe".

In fact, I do not like the word "believe."

I do not remember in which the novel read the sentence: "When a person says to another:" I believe that you can do it, "he almost never takes responsibility in case of failure." Therefore, it seems to me that the "faith", in fact, it is very irresponsible.

It can even be considered as a refusal to think.

Is the word "because I believe" does not negate the doubts and suspicions, not narrow the field of view?Everyone knows that the faith may go into fanaticism, do not it because "faith" -lish beautiful word covering the abandonment of thinking? You could even say that it allows no doubt totally crazy justifications of their actions, that an outside observer would never understand.

At the same time, on the other hand, it is impossible to live life without believing in anybody and in anything.

It is hard to imagine that a man suspected absolutely everyone can be happy.

And therefore … it is difficult to draw a line between the ins and outs of "faith."

When I wrote the first volume of "The Seagull", the borrowed part

of the main characters (three person + Dragon) and the basic structure (journey fugitives) in another of his works, «ScrappedPrincess» … I think I already talked about this. So, the first title of the book (which, of course, rejected), was «ResponsibleTrust».

That is “a responsible trust.”

These are the times.

It seems to me that, ten years later, it’s time to go back to its roots.

That’s about with such deep thoughts I wrote this volume.

And the conclusion to which I am, after all, come, you can read it themselves.

And the last.

As always thank my editor and M-san Namaniku ATK’s illustrator-san.

And all who hold this book in your hands. (And those who bought it and bought the last volume, I do worship.)

Well, I’ll see you in the next volume.